デスマーチからはじまる異世界狂想曲

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Book 5

(デスマーチからはじまる異世界狂想曲)

Death Marching to the Parallel World Rhapsody

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Story Description:

Suzuki, an adult programmer, suddenly notice that he's thrown into another world wearing a casual clothes at level 1. He gained high level and treasures after using the 3-times-disposable-magic, Meteor Shower, once. After that he intend to do another world "sightseeing tours"? Meeting 3 beast girls, beautiful purple and black haired sisters and an eccentric blond haired elf girl along with various people during his trip. Although occasionally fighting demon and demon lord, this is a heartwarming fantasy story at heart.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Transation source can be found here: Link

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Credits

Web Novel Volume 8

8-1. At the Capital of the Duchy

*

Satou's here. Japanese people are world-famous for being impatient, but people of a parallel world aren't all easygoing either.

◇

"A peanut is flying nodesu!"
"Monster~?"

Pochi and Tama who have come from the ship's deck pull both of my sleeves and take me along to the deck.
There's a floating airship when I look at the place where the two are pointing. I've already checked it on the map, but it's quite impressive when you actually see the real thing. It's a 300 meters long peanut-shaped rigid airship. It's unknown whether it floats using gas like helium or magic tools.
I can guess the airship's route from the map, it probably has arrived here from the royal capital this morning.

"That's an airship."
"Ayership?"
"Ships that fly in the sky."
"Amazing nodesu! I want to ride in it nodesu!"

Yup, me too.
If you think about it, the ship is probably for military affairs, so it's doubtful whether we can ride in it or not.

"Uwah. Truly a fantasy. I'm burning up~."

"I wonder how is it floating?"

Arisa and Liza have also come. This is the first time Arisa sees it huh. I wonder if she hasn't ridden in the exclusive airship of the hero?

"Master, I wish for that."
"Ufufu, the shape is quite cute isn't it."

Nana is gesturing like she's trying to reach and grasp the airship with her hands. Lulu says 'cute', is that cute? I don't really understand, maybe because our senses are different.

"Arisa can just make a cushion with that shape later right? On top of being cute, it'll also be soft."

Nana plops her hands once, and goes to pester Arisa. She hugs Arisa from behind, and speaks intensely about how cute the airship is. Arisa will probably yield before long. Since Nana absolutely won't give up when she's like that.

"Master, I've inquired Shelna-dono, and it seems that demi-humans aren't welcomed in the inner part of the big wall. I think it's better for Pochi, Tama, and Mia to put on overcoats before we enter the port."
"Right, I'll tell them after their euphoria from the airship have receded."

Shelna-dono that Liza's mentioned is the tour guide. Her main occupation is one of the civil official of the viceory of Gururian city--earl Walgock. I thought that she was the viceroy's watchdog when I discovered it from AR, but it seemed she just missed the time when was working as a tour guide for earning her school expense since she was young, so she replaced the tour guide.

At the duchy capital, we get to stay in the mansion of earl Walgock, thanks to the goodwill of the viceroy. I'm fine with staying at a normal

inn, but since the martial tournament is open, there aren't probably many decent places left, so I decide to receive the favor.

The ship that we're boarding heads toward the port of the duchy capital. It's not the port on the downtown, but the one built inside the capital great wall for nobles' and purveyors' use.
By great wall I'm naturally talking about Oyugock city outer wall. It seems that the population has increased too much, and so, in order to settle down the people in the suburbs, they've created a three meters tall wall called new wall outside. The new wall is unlike an actual great wall as it cannot protect against monsters' attacks, so the area inside the great wall becomes inhabited only by nobles, the wealthy and technicians, while people like workers, demi-humans, and the poor are living outside of it.

◇

After we have disembarked, we are being guided by Shelna-san toward the mansion of earl Walgock.
Thanks to the pass from the viceroy, we aren't checked during the inspection for entering the city. However, I feel like there are too few guards at that time. When I check on the map, it looks like the guards are running around inside city.

The cause is probably the corpses of the members, and specific things that show their positions that I've left inside the castle covered with sheets after defeating the demon lord last night. Since I left them with the [Wings of Liberty] clothings and their plan of resurrecting the demon lord, the soldiers are probably cleaning up the aftermath. Work hard.

I could arrest the remaining members and hand them over to the authority, but since it's troublesome, I leave them alone. The woman that

has got her attire taken by me seems to have been rescued by her friends, and she's now among the gathering in the mansion of a noble called earl Bobi. It'd be bothersome if they cause disturbances so I mark it.

The mansion of earl Walgock is in an area that is wide even among the noble area inside the great wall.
After I have finished greeting the previous earl Walgock together with Shelna-san, the two of us go to the duke's castle with the carriage that she's taken out from the mansion. Shelna-san is quite an energetic person.
I myself am fine since my stamina is overflowing, but Mia and Arisa don't have much stamina, so I tell them to be at leisure in the mansion today. They won't be able to meet the duke even if we go together anyway, so there's no particular problem. Lady Karina has invited Pochi and Tama for training on the courtyard. She's probably quite frustrated since she couldn't move her body too much at the ship. Liza and the maids are accompanying them, so they probably won't cause an uproar.

The duke's castle is as vast as baron Muno's, but there are wide differences in the splendors and the number of present people.
Over the castle walls inside, there are four 4 meter tall iron golems stationed around the castle gate. Looks like the castle walls are connected with various anti-aircraft towers. I wasn't able to confirm what kind of artilleries are put in it. I'll ask them to let me see it later.

The wagon stops at the courtyard after crossing the inner wall earlier. It's walking from here. Guided by the maid, we're advancing through a corridor made with abundant of marbles. Carpets are spread below, and we come across decorations like artworks that are on the wall and flowers on regular interval. I don't understand the quality of the pictures, but they're good calming paintings.

Someone is waving hands inside a painting hanging on the wall along the way on the corridor.

As expected of fantasy. It's really like a magic item.

The little girl drawn on the painting is waving her hands. She looks delighted when I wave back. It's quite interactive. I'm expecting that there would be people moving inside other paintings, but unfortunately, they're all just normal paintings.

"Is there anything wrong Chevalier-sama?"
"No, it's nothing. As expected of duke-sama's castle. There's a fun magic item."
"That's right, I was also surprised when I came here for the first time."

No wonder. Anyone would be surprised if they saw someone moving inside a painting.

◇

We're led to a room and get to meet the consul aide.

"Well then, this is the letter from baron Muno. And then, this is the letter from baron Muno's consul, viscount Rottol, for the consul-sama here."

I hand over two sets of letters. The letters from Nina-san are in the forms of three scrolls and one bundle of documents.
The consul aide receives that respectfully, and then someone who looks like the assistant put it on the rack. Shelna-san also has a letter from the viceroy to pass here, but she gives the bag that she's brought here to the assistant-san. I heard later that it was packed with reports from each departments.
A maid enters after getting permission by knocking the door and whispers something to the consul aide.

"Sir Pendragon, your excellency, the duke seems to want to meet you. Is it fine for you to go for a bit?"

Oh?
The plan today is to only pass over the letters, and the meeting will be for several days later I'm told.
Since this means that I won't have to trouble myself coming here twice, I gladly accept it. I don't have the right to refuse in the first place anyway, the invitation is probably just a formality from the opposite.

I've thought that we'd be guided to the audience room, but we pass over it and proceed to what seems to be the private room of the duke.
The room earlier is gorgeous, but this one is two grades higher. The chair that I'm offered to sit isn't too hard or too soft, it's a superb fit. I've wanted this kind of chair in my workplace. There is a water tank on one side of the room, and tropical fish-like fish are swimming inside. Their shapes looks like guppy, but they're dimly shining light green light from the inside of their semi-transparent bodies.

There are four statues of nude women on the corners of the room, they're all Living Statues. There's a passage that leads to several soldiers that are standing by in a waiting room, although it's been skillfully concealed.
There are three magic soldiers on the roof standing by. There doesn't seem to be any movable gimmick, so they probably would break through the roof if there was an emergency.
They've put some considerations for making sure that normal people won't be able to sense the existences of those guards. They don't seem to have any intention of needlessly intimidating guests.

The room maid announces that the duke is coming here from the next room, so I stand up to receive him.
The one who comes into the room is an old man with good physique and with entire body hair in white. His hair is plentiful, but his beard is even

more so. He looks like a good-natured man, but the glints on his eyes are too powerful. As the proof, Shelna-san who's together with me has completely stiffened. The one who comes after the duke is probably the consul. He has blond hair with gray ones mixed and slender build. He looks like an able man with thin eyes.

"Fumu, so you're the rumored hero-dono who saw through the demon's trick, and protected baron Muno territory from monsters led by the demon huh. You're young."

After we give our each other names, the consul speaks first. Young? Oh right, my appearance is that of a 15 years old. Mirrors are rare so I've forgotten.

"On top of that, it seems that you've exterminated the demon that has appeared in our territory's Gururian city. Allow me to thank you."

When it's spoken like that, it's as if I'm the perpetrator who has instigated the demons in order to be promoted.

"It is surely because of the people who have fought earlier, and the beast people subordinates of mine. I cannot win against the demon if it's just me alone."
"Modesty is unnecessary. A letter of recommendation for you to participate in the second qualifier has arrived from earl Walgock."

Viceroy-san, I'd have liked if you inform me first when you were sending a letter of recommendation.
I gently decline it of course since I don't have any intention of participating.

"Is that so, that's too bad. So, I've summoned you here to tell you something about baron Muno."

I wonder what? Don't tell me that the demons are attacking the territory again.

"Your excellency, he would misunderstand if you said it like that."
"Really? It's a good story. It's been decided that baron Muno will be raised to Earldom during the kingdom's spring meeting. There is no custom of a noble getting raised two ranks so there was some disputes, but he has piled up quite enough achievements."

He's originally been decided to be raised in rank, but since there's enough achievement just right, it's been hastened. The territory won't be particularly expanded, but the advantage is that the territory won't be made light by the neighboring territories.

"You don't seem to have much desire in getting success in life."
"Desire to successful in life is it? I think the current honorary knight is already quite excessive for me."

Apparently, there's a talk for me to become a honorary baron in addition with baron Muno's. Lords are allowed to assign honorary knight and knight peerage, but it seems that honorary baron and above are the king's privilege. Honestly, I'm not interested in raising the rank or something, so I safely pass on it.
From this on, replacing the duke, the consul comes ahead to talk about the real issue.

"I don't think that you, Sir, knows, but every towns have been attacked by a lower demon like the one that has attacked Gururian city."

I do know, but normally one wouldn't, so I put on a slightly surprised face.

"Only Gururian and Standel cities have escaped with little damage. The other cities have suffered damage that will take several years to recover. We cannot confirm if the upper demon like the one that's attacked Seryuu

city last month appears, but mid demons have appeared in other Earls' territories."

If an upper demon attacks, a city would surely vanish, but if it's just a lower demon, then people who are capable of defeating it should exist. The damages may have been done before the capable person comes huh. I could sort of understand why the viceroy was awfully kind.

The demons' damages have increased in various places, so they want to gather people who can defeat demons it seems. I think there are some problems in soliciting other lord's retainers, but since the duke's influences are too far apart, it seems that it's possible for me to be transferred. I don't have that in mind, so I decline in a way that won't create hard feelings.

They want to hear my wish for the rewards of saving Gururian city, so I ask permissions to buy attack-related scrolls, and magic tools, and they agree to it easily. When I talk about it to Arisa later, she says that maybe they want to avoid expenses from the available cash since they need it for restorations of various places. I see.
While I'm at it, under the pretext of 'for the sake of Muno city from now on', I got permit to go on inspections of all kinds of workshops. I very much look forward to have a field trip on workshops like the Oak glass workshop.
<TLN: 'Oak' can also be read 'Orc'.>

◇

"Haah, that was tense."
"You're right."
"How can you say that. Wasn't chevalier-sama looking very normal in front of duke-sama?"

That's thanks to Poker Face. In truth, even though I remember the second half of the conversation, it didn't feel real to me.

When we've come to the courtyard to get on the wagon, I notice that there's something strange.
Everyone is looking at the sky.

"Chevalier-sama, please have a look at that."

I look at where Shelna-san points. I use my hand as a shade since it's in front of the light. I have no need of shading since I have the light intensity adjustment skill, but my hand has moved out of habit.

Putting aside such trivial things, that descends from the sky.

8-2. Visitor from the Sky

*

Satou's here. Impossible setting like woman warriors wearing bikini armors exist in video games, but as expected, there is no warrior who wears bikini armor in the parallel world.

◇

The visitor that falls from the sky breaks its speed just before it hits the ground.

"Thank you for welcoming me!"

The girl takes off her helmet, and her silver hair appears as if flowing. When she get off the golem that's modeled after a pegasus, the heels on her metal armor lets out clear sounds. It doesn't seem to be an armor made from normal iron.

"Princess!"
"Ringrande-sama!"

The people on the courtyard call her "Ringrande".

The girl who comes down from the sky by riding a pegasus is Ringrande Oyugock. A follower of Hayato Masaki, the hero. Her level is 55. Judging from her skills composition, she's more like a magic warrior than a magician.

She's 22 years old, her eyes are somewhat tsurime, and with the thin eyebrows, she's an intense beauty.
<TLN: google tsurime, it's kinda hard to describe but quite obvious when you see images of it.>

Her armor is unlike the unrefined lump of metal that soldiers are wearing, it's shaped with womanly lines. If her armor curves aren't exaggerated, then she's about E cup. I'll remake Nana's armor with lady Ringrande's armor as a reference.

I don't know why a grandchild of one of the leading figures of Shiga kingdom has become a follower of Saga empire's hero, but judging from the reactions of the people on this square, she seems to be very popular.

"She's quite popular eh."
"Are chevalier-sama not familiar with her?"

Shelna-san clutches her fists in front of her chest, and I listen to her curiously.
I nod to her who seems to be setting up the mood, and learn various things about lady Ringrande.
Lady Ringrande is the granddaughter of the duke, the fourth daughter of the next duke, and her mother is the daughter of Shiga kingdom's king who has been married into his subject. The kind of lineage that'd ensure her to inherit the peerage.
She had been overflowing with talent since she was 10 years old, and skipped grades to study at the royal Oritsu academy. She's a talented girl who has obtained the bachelor's degree in two years, and mastered wind and fire magic until the advanced levels. She's still in the academy even after she obtained her degree, and for three years until she's 15, she continued polishing her magic in the labyrinth city while also continuing her research. She's a genius magician who has revived the explosion, and the destruction magic that had been considered to be lost. Additionally, it seems she has been given honorary baronet peerage for all those achievements.
Looks like she's also learned swordsmanship in the labyrinth city, but Shelna-san doesn't seem to know it well.

When she's 18 years old, such woman ran away to serve the hero of Saga

empire which caused quite a bit of uproars. Since I don't have any interest in that matter, I just response agreeably to Shelna-san without really hearing it.

It seems that it's been two years since she last comes home.

◇

Since Shelna-san looks like she wants to join the people who surrounds lady Ringrande, I give her permission. Looks like she's been ordered by the viceroy to attend us during our stay after she's given the report to the duke, but since we've already finished the task that has to be completed as early as possible, it's fine for her to have some time off. Just be prepared for the tour around various workshops from tomorrow on.

I ask the footman who's standing by on the entrance to call the carriage that I've ridden.
It's troublesome to ask people's help every time I need to do something. Since it's NG for me to do it myself, Nina-san has told me to get accustomed to it even though it's troublesome.

I have the carriage go to the area where magic shops and bookstores are gathered. There are magic shops in the downtown, but for now I head toward the one close to the castle.

When I notice the people inside, I've thought of going to the magic shops in the downtown instead, but since it'd be too suspicious, I give up.

"Oh, if it isn't Satou-dono."
"Hmm, are you Toruma's acquaintance?"
"Umu, I've told you before right? To the whole 10.000-strong monsters army that attacked Muno city, he's--"

The people inside the magic shop are a man who looks to be the shop manager, and Toruma ossan. The shop manager is a man so muscular you wouldn't think he's a magic shop manager. His stern face looks like he's suited to carry a pickaxe or a great sword on his shoulder.

The shop manager is joyfully listening to the exaggerated story of Toruma while grinning. He probably regards it as Toruma's usual boasting. It doesn't seem like he takes it seriously.

"My name is Kikinu. It sounds strange since I'm born in a small country to the east, but don't mind it. If it's hard for you to pronounce it, you can call me, Kinniku, Oyaji, or Shop manager any one you want."
"Pleasure to meet you. My name is Satou."
<TLN:Kinniku=muscle, oyaji=old man, boss, or father depending on the context.>

Toruma who's being treated like an air says "Chi chi chi" while swaying his finger. What, I can't help but wanting to smack him.

"You have to properly give your house name okay?"

I didn't tell him my house name since I wanted us to talk without reservation, but he's a KY guy like always.
<TLN: KY=Kuuki Yomenai, can't read the atmosphere/mood.>

"Excuse me. I'm Satou Pendragon."
"Hou? I can see that you like heroes tales."
"His master is baron Muno, also known as associate baron Donan back then."
"That's, a misfortune huh."

To be so widely known, just how much you like heroes, baron Muno.

"No, ultimately, the one who've chosen it is myself."
"Well, only people who share the same interest will understand it, so it's

probably alright."

I see, shop manager Kikinu is the same kind of person as baron Muno huh.
I chat adequately to liven things up, and ask about the line up of the magic books and the scrolls.

A lot of things are the same as the ones from Gugurian city magic shop, but as expected of the magic shop in a metropolis, it's quite complete.

"This book is nice."
"That so? It's a book that only sells one copy in several years, but it's good that you like it. It's an indispensable dictionary for magic tools appraiser, but since the only ones who'd buy it are people who have appraisal skill, it's become fertilizer for the bookshelf."

I can read the magic items inside my storage with this.
There are magic books for magic that Shelna-san has mentioned earlier, explosion and destruction magic. Due to their contents, the magic books are something that can only be sold to people authorized by the military, but thanks to the permit I've got from the duke, I can buy it without problem.

There are also various books with titles that fascinate me like, "Magic Tools and Carved Seal Magic", "30 Magic Circuit Standards for Magic Tools", "In-Depth Learning from the Basic for Cane and Catalyst", "Gems and Magic Cores", so I buy them all.

"Young master, how about this book?"

Shop manager Kikinu presents, "Rotation and Roman", "The Meeting of Rotation and Round Trip Movement", "New Magic Born from Rotation", books that excessively push rotation topics. Since the author is the same one who has created the magic spinning disk I've bougt back then, I

decide to buy them. The shop manager Kikinu's face which somehow looks amazed catches my eyes. Did he think that I wouldn't buy them? That can't be, he's the one who recommends it himself.
I've also bought many other books, but there's nothing that talks about making scrolls.

On the other hand, there are plentiful of scrolls.
It seems that Toruma is here to sell the scrolls door-to-door since it's difficult for him to stay in his parent's house.

"You don't have to buy them here, you can buy them from our workshop right?"
"Oy, oy, Toruma. Don't take away my customer."
"I'd like to get extraordinarily unusual scrolls from Toruma-san's parent house, so this is fine."

Rather than unusual scrolls, I intend to custom order peculiar magic for the scrolls that can't be bought, so I'll buy the ones that can be bought from stores beforehand.

Generally, here, the scrolls that can be normally traded are similar with the ones sold in other cities, but I get to buy various battle-related scrolls for military use. They seem to be mostly used as substitutes for when there are shortage of magicians, and insurances that magicians carry around with elements they can't use.

There's also the magic that the fire magician viscount-san has used in the Seryuu city labyrinth back then, Fire Storm. If I have this intermediate magic, I wonder if it'd be easier to fight against a demon lord?

Elementary level magic scrolls are cheap, but intermediate level scrolls are worth several pieces of gold coin, so even if people carry it around for insurance, won't they feel reluctant to use it? I'm thinking that low level people might be able to use it for power leveling, but since it can't be

invoked if their magic power aren't enough, it's probably impossible.

"Are you going to carry the goods yourself? If you tell me your lodging location, I could deliver it to you in the evening y'know?"
"Then, please deliver them to earl Walgock's mansion."
"Oh? I've thought that you'll stay in my parent house, but you're acquainted with earl Walgock huh?"
"Yes, there were a bit of things."

I leave the delivery to manager Kikinu. Looks like I can pay at that time. It's a pain to carry around gold coins in large quantities, so payment bill probably becomes the standard.

◇

Afterward, guided by Toruma, I go around many magic shops and bookstores.
I looked tepidly at Toruma who said such line like, "This city is like my backyard.", but it was the truth without exaggeration. We're going around the city through strange alleys, or garden yard inside other people's houses. Rather than back streets, they seem to be courses that a brat would prefer. I've returned the carriage that I've ridden, so we ride the cab carriage when it's far.

In the secondhand bookstore at the downtown, Toruma skillfully persuades the obstinate-looking old man shopkeeper to make him takes out the treasured book. He's good for this kind of negotiation. It seems he's been doing this many times before when he's buying erotic books long ago. Really like Toruma ossan.

Of course the book that has come out is not an erotic book. It's a magic book of space magic. Although it only lists the chants until intermediate

level, and things like explanation of the effects, or description of the theory are completely absent. I buy it while convincing myself that it'd be just like disassembling binary codes.
The used scrolls for maniacs have already been sold, so I buy several scrolls with magic that aren't listed in the spell books. I have to compile the spell books later.

◇

"Ara, what a lovely boy."
"Right, if he has more muscle, he'd feel even better to touch right?"

Why is this happening.

"Ara, no way. Try to touch him, his muscles are like steel."
"You're right, even his abs is ripped."

I mildly avoid the hands that are groping my body.

"Ara, meany."
"You're quite strong ne."
"Oy, oy, don't only service Satou-dono, please care for me too."
"Ara, no way. Toruma-san is jealous."

I felt bad if I leave Toruma just like that after he had thoroughly guided me, so I thought of treating him to a meal at least, but he somehow guided me to this establishment.

An okama bar is completely unexpected.

"I mean, Hayuna would get angry if I go to an establishment with women."

So he said.

If Shelna-san who was worried didn't come to pick me, I might be there until morning.
Everyone's glances are painful when I've returned, so I decide to go shopping with everyone tomorrow. Since Oyugock city is relatively warm, it might be a good idea to buy clothes for spring.

8-3. Downtown Disturbance

*

Satou's here. The only field trip I had ever done in Japan was to a beer factory where I could try some freshly made samples. I wonder why was the beer I drank in that factory so delicious.

◇

Here, here, the little girl inside the painting is beckoning.
As if led by that gesture, my hand approaches.

The painting where she is in has a lone door drawn on a field, it's a mysterious oil painting. The girl opens that door and enters, then she beckons from beyond that door.

I stretch my hand toward the frame of that painting--

◇

"Morning~?""Nano desu!"

Something made a little impact on my stomach along with cheerful voices.

When I slightly open my eyes, there are Pochi and Tama who have dived beside my stomach. The impact on my stomach seem to be from their arms that have ridden on it.

What a strange dream.
Last night, since I've got myself a book that can help decipher the explanation on magic tools, I've sorted the magic tools until dawn, I wonder that's the reason I see that dream?

"Good Morning."

I greet the two and pat their heads while messing with it a bit. Maybe it's a bit too rough, the two hold my palms with both their hands and feet, and escape. I pretend to feel painful since they're play-biting.

"Mwuu."

Mia who's lying down rustles my head. Does she want to be cared, or is this a revenge for waking her up, it's a vague line.
Even though we're this noisy, Arisa is still sleeping beside me with anguished face. I wonder what kind of dream she's having.

Nana has come to tell us that the breakfast is ready, I wake Arisa up and go toward the dining room. It seems she's still sleepy, Arisa acts spoiled and says, "Carry me", so I take her on my shoulder to the dining room. Since Pochi and Tama are looking so enviously, I decide to carry the two on my shoulders after this.

◇

"Chevalier-sama, about the schedules for visiting the workshops--"

Yesterday, on the way to the duke's castle, I hear from Shelna-san that visiting workshops aren't something that can be done immediately, I have to make prior appointments beforehand. Therefore, Shelna-san has got the reservations for us.

Excluding the visit to the scroll workshop of viscount Shimen, Toruma's parent house, that'll be in 10 days, we can visit other workshops in 2-5 days time. The visit to the scroll workshop is so late because we have to wait for viscount Shimen to return from the royal capital first.

"Well then, is it alright for Chevalier-sama and Karina-sama to attend the dinner tonight?"
"Of course, it's alright desuwa."

Lady Karina answered Shelna-san's question faster than me.
The dinner she's talking about is about the invitation from the previous earl Walgock couple. Moreover, I've also been invited to a party organized by the duke three days later. I feel like some kind of disturbances will happen, am I just being paranoid I wonder?

I'm fine with Nana as my partner for the dinner, but since she's less accustomed on the etiquette than lady Karina--there are also some pushes from lady Karina's maids--it's become lady Karina instead. I'm more comfortable with taking Lulu, but since Lulu doesn't look like she has resistance for those kind of things, I abandon the thought.

"Are you really not going to participate in the martial art tournament? If a noble appear in the second qualifier of the tournament, his social status will get considerably high..."
"I have no such intention."
"I understand. The arena for the tournament is in the town, and we've reserved a private room for noble visitor that Chevalier-sama can use anytime during the second qualifier. However, unfortunately, we aren't able to secure the private room for the main match, so we've reserved the seats in the shared room for nobles."

It seems it's fine to be be noisy in the private room, but it's NG to have the slaves and demi-humans make noise in the shared room. It'd be impossible for Pochi and Tama to not make noise when they see the

tournament, so I'll go watch the main match alone in secret. Looks like the second qualifier will be held in five days.

◇

By borrowing two four-seater carriages, I go to the downtown together with everyone. Of course, I leave lady Karina behind.
We get off in the parking lot before the great wall, and walk from there.

"So many."
"That's right, due to the opening of the big tournament, this has become the melting pot of races."
"Melting pot~?"
"Is it delicious?"
"Ufufu, Pochi-chan is a glutton-san."

There are also a lot of people in the main street of the noble district, but it's jam packed in the downtown. There's a strange heat like you normally see in the Southeast Asia marketplace. Seemingly stirred by that, everyone is in high spirit more than usual.

First, let's buy thin clothes in the second-hand clothes store. Everyone beside Lulu and me is wearing an overcoat, it looks to be hot just seeing them. Liza reaches for a full metal armor. I tell her that lighter equipment is better, but since she insists, "It's the full dress of a guard", so I buy it as it is.

"Nice smell nano desu."
"Mumumu, this is! It's the smell of burnt soy sauce. This is, squid teriyaki, private Pochi, private Tama. Let's secure the urgent suspects at once~."
"Secure~."
"Aye, nano desu."

It does smell nice. Arisa leads Tama and Pochi running to the stall. Mia is tempted to run with the three, but she probably wouldn't be able to eat it. Liza and Lulu follow the children behind them while walking.

"Master, it's a state of emergency."

Nana murmurs so while taking my arm and leads me to the different direction than everyone's. I tell Lulu who has noticed us, "I'll come back soon". I have the map so I could join them back immediately.

There are ratmen children at the place where Nana pressingly pulls me. No wait, it seems to be different, their skins are glossy and their necks inverts when they're walking. According to the AR indication, they're Sea Lion kin.

"I cannot calculate the movement of that young organism. Even though it's not efficient, I cannot take my eyes off them."

It seems Nana has wanted to see these children. Certainly, one could say that their way of walking is cute. After she's admired them for some time, I'll take her back to everyone. My arm is happy, but it'll be bad if we leave everyone too long and make them worry.

The moment of happiness suddenly ends.

◇

The instant Nana sees a big tigerkin man kicks the sea lionkin child, her atmosphere changed. Nana releases my arm, and jumps over the crowd of people and cut between the children and the big man.

It seems she's used body strengthening nature magic, but her activation time has become quite a bit faster. Wonder if it's because of her training with Liza and the others every day.

"What? A human huh? Get away woman."
"I refuse. I inform that excessive violence against young organism is dangerous, and is prohibited."

The big tigerkin man flaunts his arm--

"You bastard, when did you appear?"

I catch and stop his arm before he could swing it.

The big man scowls with sharp glint on his eyes at me who's caught his arm from behind.

From what I saw, the sea lionkin child who didn't see where he was going hit the big tigerkin man, and the cause of this quarrel was because the man's trousers got stained.
Although, the man's trousers are already dirty enough you can't even tell if it has been stained further.

"You must not use violence."
"Is that so."

The big man kicks me while answering. I jump to avoid it and land before the man. Of course, I'm still holding his arm.

Making use of abduction skill, I pin the big man down.
Right at that time, someone's great sword is swinging toward me.

"Master, it's a reinforcement."

Due to space grasp and crisis perception skills, I've noticed it even if I don't hear Nana's warning, so I ward off the great sword with the fairy sword on my waist while still pining the big man down.

"Hou? You've eluded the sword of this great me while pining Geri huh."

A pure white tigerkin man appears from the darkness of the alley.
However, swinging sword in the downtown like this, he's not sane huh.
I've done it myself, but this is an act of self-defense, so please overlook it.
The spectators around us are clamoring. It seems this guy is a participant of the second qualifier.

"You'd be wasting your turn in the second qualifier if you cause bloodshed in the town you know?"
"Fuhn, you're showing composure after receiving surprise attack in the downtown. You're also a participant of the second qualifier huh. Come to the final, we'll settle it there."

I feel like it'd be complicated if I answer, "I'm not" here. I'll reply it vaguely to lead him.

"I'm looking forward to it. Please do your best to win through it."
"Fuhn, your show is only for now."

I release the man that I've pinned down and step back once. I want them to leave while they're still misunderstanding. I don't want to attract more attention in this kind of place.
I show my composure while the white man takes the big man until they're gone.

The spectators seem to be dissatisfied for the non-fight, but I don't care.

"Master, master! The young organism is vomiting out fluid from his mouth. I appeal for the emergency treatment."

Since Nana appeals monotonously behind, I take out a magic potion from my pocket and make the sea lionkin child drinks it. He seems to have recovered immediately, I'm relieved. Shouts of joy break out from the spectators somehow.

The sea lionkin is really popular huh. Nana must be attracted.

That popular person keeps licking the bottle even after it's been emptied. It's probably because I've put sweet flavor in the magic potion.
Nana holds the sea lion children up on her hands.

"Master, requesting to make these children become ours."
"No."
"Master, please reconsider."
"Rejected."

It's unusual for Nana to get depressed, but I can't compromise here. When the sounds of some kind of bell is resounding, the children becomes flustered on Nana's arms, I instruct Nana to release them. She hesitates for a bit, but then she resigns herself and release them.

Somehow the children are going toward where Arisa and the others are, so we follow them along. It is not because Nana is leading me by hands, not at all. I'd like us to link arms if possible, but since Arisa and Mia would protest if they see it, it's fine like this.

There's an unexpected person at the destination of the children.

8-4. Downtown Disturbance (2)

*

Satou's here. Siblings that don't look alike exist anywhere, but even if they're raised in the same environment, the differences are there ever since they're born. The little sister who wants to surpass her big sister, and the big sister who wants to protect her little sister, those feeling may be the impetus to help them grow.

◇

There's a square just ahead where the sea lionkin children are going, it seems volunteers are distributing food there.

That's good and all, but.

"Line up properly nodesu! Cutting the line is bad, nodesu."
"Line up~ You ignorant people~."
"H, hey Tama-chan!"

For some reason, the figures of Pochi and the others as the volunteers who distribute the food are there.

"The last in line is here! Line up in three lines while carrying your own wooden bowl."
"You there, I'll put you to the end of the line if you're quarreling."

Looks like Arisa and Liza are in charge of the queues.
The sea lionkin children are lining up in accordance to Arisa's guidance.
Nana is going to line up behind them, but I stop her.

"Ara, master, what was Nana's errand?"
"We helped those children from a tigerkin man."
"Fuh~n, I thought that you two were shacking up somewhere."

If we were really shacking up, Mia would find me anywhere I am. Mia's ability to find me can be called at superpower level, although she won't tell me how.

"What about you girls, how did you end up helping the queue?"
"It's just like master's. Some ruffians who didn't act their ages were cutting the line and making some fuss, so Pochi warned them, and then Liza suppressed the three ruffians who were in frenzy."

I see. I can somehow picture the scene in my head.

"That's fine, but then why is Lulu helping serving the food?"
"An old woman tried to stop the ruffians before Pochi, but she got injured by them."

The injury was immediately healed by Mia's and Arisa's magic, but she went home since she was shocked from the violence. Because of that, their hands were short, and so Lulu volunteered to help.

"It feels bad to stop halfway, so we will help for another hour, it's fine right?"
"Of course."

Mingling with the local people is also one of the true charm of sightseeing.
I guess I'll go help too with the cooking. I was going to bring Nana along, but since she was going crazy with the sea lionkin children, I left her.

"Lulu, is there anything I can help?"
"Ah, master! Sera-sama, this is my master, Satou Pendragon-sama."

Yes, the one there is the demon lord sacrifice, the miko from Tenion temple, Sera. However, to go on a volunteer work after she's just been abducted by a suspicious organization like this, is there no one who's worried about her?
No, there are some duke's people among the crowds slightly away from here. She's a lure to fish out『Wings of Liberty』huh.

Putting that aside, my eyes are happy when she's standing next to Lulu. They totally look like some idol unit.

"Nice to meet you, Chevalier Pendragon-sama. I am a miko of Tenion temple, Sera--."

It seems she's progressing well after the revival.
She reflexively greets when Lulu introduces me to her, but she's tilting her head for some reason.

"Um, we've met somewhere haven't we? I'm sorry, but my memory is a bit vague..."

Don't tell me, she has some memory left from when she's possessed by the demon lord. It sound like a pick-up line if you just look at the words. I stop being self-conscious, and go on to deceive her.

"No, this is the first time we've met. Sera-sama."
"Is it so I wonder..."

Looking puzzled is fine and all, but why is she staring at me. When I look at this person, it somehow reminds me of princess Menea. Their proportion and face are different, yet why.

"Sera-sama, the people are tired of waiting for the food."
"Ara, I mustn't."

It's bad to keep the people waiting, so I urge Sera to go back to work distributing the food.
The content of the pot for the food is soup of water plant that looks like seaweeds, and with small dumplings put inside. From what I see, there aren't enough people who make the dumplings.

"I'll help."
"No, it's alright. I can't let noble-sama dirties his hand."

I offered help to one of the aunty who's cooking, but she refused while being sorry. Using polite speech in strain, what a strange person. Lulu, who's serving the ration, boasts, "Master is good at cooking." to Sera besides her. Do beautiful girls naturally attract each other?

"Aunty, how about some help?"
"Right, it'd be bad if someone got stomachache for eating half-cooked dumplings."

I quickly greet the people who are cooking, and participate in the cooking.

"Young master, please use this."

A person who looks like a young wife lends me an apron while saying that my clothes mustn't get dirty. I replace her since her work of making surimi seems to be the hardest. Mia who's blowing reed flute while looking bored since awhile ago has stood beside me before I know it, she's staring at my hands working. A nearby aunty who's making dumplings calls out.

"You're pretty good despite being a noble. If you don't succeed your house, how about working in our shop? I'll let my daughter becomes your bride."

One of the aunty praises my skill.
I wonder why do these aunties are offering marriage meeting (omiai) to me.

"No."
""N, no don't." Master is "Eh?""

Mia, and Lulu reacted to the word [Bride] and spoke in denial, but for some reason, even Sera synchronized with Lulu. Lulu isn't the only one who's surprised, even the person herself is. She looks cute with her hands on her mouth while looking surprised, but since the glances from the people who are waiting are scary, I urge her to go back to work.

It can't possibly be love-at-first-sight, so there might be some fragments remaining from when I saved her from the demon lord even if she can't precisely recall it.

Still, even though Sera and Lulu are too young to become the objects of romantic interest, they're feast to my eyes. I want you two to form a unit in five years.

◇

The food distribution is over without any big disturbance.
Just that, there was a person who accused that the dumplings had been exchanged with high-class ones halfway through, but he immediately shriveled after Liza glared at him. We were working right in front of them, so they should have known. It was troubling.

"Hey, it's fine that you're helping, but please hold back."

Arisa scolds me in low voice.
Ridiculous, I only made the surimi by grinding, to even need to hold back....
Even if I disable skill that I've become familiar with, the effect won't significantly differ. For skills like alchemy and compounding that I am really familiar with after countless repetitions, it is possible for me to deliberately make inferior goods, and I can probably do it too with cooking. However, I somehow don't like doing something like making it bad on purpose.

From the chatting with the aunties when we're cooking, they seem to be the housewives from around here and the cleaning ladies of the temple. It seems that the five temples in the downtown are distributing food in turns. The distribution is in every other day, there's not enough fund to do it everyday. The current fund comes from donation from sympathizers in the town, and the temples themselves.

There's a Tenion temple with the head-miko at the noble district, but there's also another temple on the downtown. Or rather, it's just a stone throw away from this square.
The clean-up ends briefly, and then, I help carry the equipments back to the temple together with Pochi and the others.

"Clean-up~""Nano desu."

Pochi and Tama are holding a long table overhead together to carry them, they look cute. Of course, Arisa leads them. She's waving a twig that she's picked up from somewhere while leading the way.

"I'm sorry, you even help with the clean-up."
"It's nothing great, so don't mind about it."

Sera is just talking normally, so why do you kick my butt, Mia.
Lulu carry the pots normally after washing it.

Hmm?
It looks like several people of『Wings of Liberty』are coming here while riding horses. They're still a bit far, so we probably would arrive at the temple first.
Pochi and the others carry the desk, the materials and tools to the temple's kitchen. Sera and me are the only two who enter the temple main gate empty-handed. Nana is seeing a hallucination of her carrying two sea lionkin children. Perhaps, she's tired.

"Sera!"
"Ne, nee-san?!"

The one waiting for Sera in the temple is the girl who falls from the sky, the granddaughter of duke Oyugock who's also one of the member of the hero's party, lady Ringrande.

Nevertheless, big sister she said?
Since Sera only has [Miko of Tenion Temple] as her title, I haven't thought that she's a blood relative of duke Oyugock. Their conversations, "Are you healthy?", "You've become big.", sound like normal siblings'.
They don't really look alike for siblings, but it's good as long as they get along well.

Now then, I'll interrupt their conversation when the time is right for greeting and leaving. If this girl is here, she could mow down something like『Wings of Liberty』with one hand.
However, before I can even talk, the argument has steered toward me.

"You, which house are you from? This girl hates that kind of thing, she's got out of the house and entered the temple you know? Do you think you woo Sera yourself without relying on your house name?"

What's this. For some reason, she's hastily lumping me with a noble who

tries to woo Sera. For now, I understand that lady Ringrande loves her little sister and is a cheap person who likes to jump to conclusion.

"N,No it's not like that. Rin nee-san, this person is--."

Sera who follows up by being too upset makes the misunderstanding becomes deeper. Putting aside the big sister, Sera's age is outside the scope of my romantic interest. Even when she's become one, it's highly probable that she won't associate with me, but either way, that has nothing to do with this.

Arisa and the others who have finished tidying up come to pick me up, so I say my farewell to Sera. Before we got out of the temple, a sexy priestess asked for some donations for the sake of the distribution of the food, so I donated several gold coins.

When we get out of the temple, I magnificently ignore the scene where some several nobles-like ruffians riding horses get arrested. Sera is quite an excellent lure.

Various things happened, like lady Karina who had taken her maids along intruded on us when we were looking for spring-related things, or that there weren't any restaurants that sold meat during lunch so Pochi and Liza were down-hearted, but it was generally peaceful shoppings. It was a hard work to make Nana let go of the sea lionkin children when we were leaving the downtown. I asked Arisa to make her the stuffed toy.

During the dinner tonight, lady Karina has caused misunderstanding that I'm her fiancee, so I go through the trouble of dispelling the misunderstanding while keeping lady Karina's face. The previous earl Walgock couple have invited several noble couples from their circle.

I'm looking forward to the workshops visits tomorrow.

8-5. Workshops and Museum Visits

*

Satou's here. If you're expecting too much on something, the feeling of being betrayed is really great when the real thing doesn't live up to the expectation. I've experienced it with the movie that's made the entire America cry, even if the world changes, let-down is still around after all.

◇

"Blowpipe~?"
"It's swelling nodesu."

Pochi and Tama are flailing around and point at the workers of the workshop while being carried under Liza's arm.
Pochi and Tama are pointing at the blowpipes that the workshop's workers are using to make glass bowls. There are spell-users who use cooling magic in the passage used for the tour so it doesn't feel hot here, but the workers' face are full of sweats.

When Nana sees the swelling of the glass bowls, she looks unsteady like she's being lured from the tour passage, so Lulu and I catch her hands from both sides to stop her.

"Master, I propose the need to do a detailed observation."
"We're observing from here okay."
"Nana-san, you're going to hinder the workers-san. Please endure it."

In contrast with Nana who's overly interested, Arisa yawns uninterestingly.
Well, I can understand. When I heard about Oak glass workshop, I was

expecting some kind of fantasy workshop, but it turns out to be a very normal workshop.

"If you're interested in it, how about experiencing making one yourself when the tour is over?"
"Yes, if it's alright with you, please."

The one guiding the tour is a depressed-looking old man, this person is the workshop head. He's a bizarrely thin man on the later half of his 50s with receded hair.

Next, we're guided to a place where the raw materials for the glasses are being produced. All the workers are wearing cloths that cover their mouths and noses. It's probably measures against dusts.

"This is where we crush stones, granites and quartzites, that will become glasses. You can change them into glasses by mixing this blue powder you get by crushing this oak stones and then heat them."

Oak stone?
Can it be, a fantasy material?

"These stones are mined from a mine on the side of the northern grapeyard mountain, and the powder from the stones will create bubbles if you put it into water. These bubbles are--"

I understand what it is from the workshop head's story, it seems to be a carbonic acid, or rather a natural soda. I've forgotten the name, but there are ores like that in the previous world. I personally am happy that I get to learn various knowledges, but I wonder if other nobles who visits here wouldn't get annoyed from that kind of technical explanation?

The last room in the tour course is the main event.

"This is the sheet glass magic tool used for producing glass in this workshop."

I'm told that this magic tool seems to be a legacy from Oak empire that precedes Shiga kingdom.

"It looks like a press machine huh."

I also understand what Arisa's said. Red hot glasses are poured on top of a pedestal with 1 meter wide, and 2 meters long, then something that looks like a presser comes down from the top, creating a sheet glass.
I remember seeing a video that shows glasses are poured on top of melted metals to make one before, but I can probably use magic as substitute for the membrane to make the sheet glass.

If I use Cubes, it might be unexpectedly trivial to do it.

Furthermore, we're showed the process to make mirrors from the sheet glass. It seems they use silver nitrate. The completed mirror looks close to the mirror that people use in the previous world. I have some silver nitrates since they're raw materials for alchemy, so I probably can make some mirrors if I have oak stones.

"There are two Pochi~?"
"There's Tama over there nodesu!"

Pochi and Tama on Liza's arms are surprised at the mirror while they point at it. They usually use one, but it's a bronze mirror after all. I've thought those things, but it seems that the points of their surprises are a bit different.

"It's like Soruna's compact mirror nodesu."
"It's big~"

I see, they've seen one from the eldest daughter at Muno castle, Soruna-san. It seems they're simply surprised since their whole bodies are reflected.

Not only Arisa and Mia, even Nana and Liza are looking at the mirror while posing. I should buy one on the way back.

However, only Lulu turns down her face from the mirror. This is unfortunate.
I wonder if there's a way to make Lulu stop hating her own appearance. I'll consult Arisa next time.

They're charging fee for experiencing the glass making process using the blowing instruments, so I pay. We're given one blow pipe as a commemoration. I get [Glasswork] skill when I blow the pipe once, and although I don't know when I'm ever going to use it, I activate it like usual.

When we're going home, I ask the price of a full-length mirror, but I'll have to wait for two years since the reservation is completely full. The glasses seem to be popular for the senior nobles of the royal capital and the duke capital to put it for the windows, their production cannot catch up with the demands.

◇

Continuing after the Oak glass workshop visit, we tour soy sauce, miso, and brewery workshops in rounds.
Apparently, everyone is tired, so I postpone the scheduled visits to the barrier support workshop and silk factory for tomorrow, I ask Shelna-san to take care of the adjustment.

By the way, today's lunch is meat pickled with soup, roasted. A bit burnt, but it's quite delicious. According to Arisa, there's similar cuisine in her previous world, although I don't know one in mine.

"What should we do in the afternoon? How about watching the martial art tournament qualifier?"
"Will master participate too nodesu?"
"I won't."

Pochi and Tama react to Arisa's words, but I immediately deny.

"I think master could become the champion, are you really not going to participate?"
"Peerless hence wonderful~?"
<TLN: Muteki ni suteki~?>
"Nn, champion."

Pochi looks downhearted since I immediately deny, but I think watching the game is more fun than participating in it. More than anything, the demerit for being the champion looks to be greater than the merit.

"Master, there are a museum and an opera house nearby, how about going there?"
"Right, let's go to the museum then."

Lulu talks about a different topic right there, so I get on it. I confirm on the map that there's a museum close by.
There's an elf from the same village as Mia in the opera house, but when I ask Mia about it, she doesn't know the name. It's probably an elf who has got out of the forest before Mia's born.

◇

The visitors of the museum are mainly women who look to be well-off and their servants.

"Yamato~?""Oh, nano desu."
"Fuh~n, it seems they're holding exhibition of the ancestor king Yamato."
"Looks like it's quite crowded there."
"Nn."

The museum is constructed with three connected main halls. Among them, the biggest hall is holding an [Ancestor King Yamato Exhibition] for a limited time.

The order of things are set, so we'll go according to those orders.

First, it's an area for stuffings and skeletal structures.
The ambiance is fundamentally the same as the one in Japan, but there are monster stuffings among them, so the impression is quite different.

"It's dangerous nodesu, please leave this to Pochi and go ahead nodesu!"
"I'll wait it to you~"
"Pochi, we'll wait ahead after defeating the demon lord!"

You girls, please do the tour normally. Why are they holding a small drama. Moreover, what do you mean by [Wait], it's [Leave].
<TLN: Tama used [Matasete] instead of [Makase]>

"Master, are they not going to move?"
"Un, they're stuffings after all."

I feel they'd move if they become undeads.
Nana points at the stuffings of a small kingfisher and a squirrel-like small animal.

"It's cute."
"Nn."

Lulu and Mia are looking at a penguin's stuffing. There's one in a parallel world too huh. I pray that it's not a stuffing of penguinman or something.

Oh right.

"Pochi, come here for a bit."
"Yes, nano desu."

I carry Pochi, who has come trotting, under my arm and bring it closer to the mouth of a big monster called Fortress Tiger.

"Wagahai, you, bite whole."
<TLN: Wagahai=I.>

While making odd voice to surprise Pochi, I put my arm inside the monster's mouth.

>[Ventriloquism Skill Acquired]

I didn't intend to though.

"Y, you can't nano desu. Pochi isn't tasty nodesu."

Pochi is panicking and flailing around on my arm.

"Meat, delish."
"Meat is tasty, but Po, Pochi isn't a meat nodesu. That's why eating me is, bad, nano desu."

Since Pochi begins to seriously become scared, I put on the break.

"I'm sorry, Pochi."
"Master is mean nodesu. Pochi was scared nodesu. I demand apology and compensation nodesu."

"Then, how about I make a delicious fish dish for dinner as the compensation?"
"Fish.... Fish attacks so I hate it nano desu."

Well now? Did a fish-shaped monster came out?
I glance at Arisa, who smiles wryly beside us, to ask about it.

"Back when we're going around stuffing ourselves with the cuisines in Gururian city, a fish bone gets stuck in Pochi's throat, it was bad."
"A, Arisa. You promised to keep that a secret nodesu. Not talking about it nano desu."

Pochi has tears on her eyes, unusually so, she's hitting Arisa like a spoiled child. Oh, Arisa's HP is decreasing. Arisa is saying, "O, ouch, ch, Po, Pochi, serious punch is not okay~", like she has some allowance, but in truth, it's seriously painful for her isn't it?
I lift Pochi from behind and her punch stops connecting. Since Arisa says, "Uu~ looks like it'll become bruises.", I give her mana healing with the hand that hold Pochi in reverse.
<TLN: I think I'll go with magic power = mana from now on.>

"Oh~, it feels nice."
"Master, please the mana supplement for me."
"Next."

Since Nana wouldn't understand that this isn't mana supplying, I give the mana healing to everyone who seems to be interested with it.
For some reason, it's become so that I'm healing waist pain of the elderly in the museum too, and since Pochi and the others have been given snacks by the elderly, I can't stop halfway, and finish until the last one.
Liza and Lulu accompanied beside me until the end, but the other members go back to tour the museum, maybe because they grew tired.
That's unfair.

8-6. Workshops and Museum Visits (2)

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Satou's here. I couldn't believe it when I saw the existence of tofu hamburg steak for the first time. Recently, there are a lot of hamburg steaks made with various raw materials, but I say that hamburg steak made with minced beef and pork is the best.

◇

It's already evening huh.
Just how many old men's and old women's waists have I massaged.
Everyone was grateful so it was worth doing, but I had hoped that they would hold back a bit.

"Looks like the field hospital is over eh. Here, here, come here."

Arisa and Nana have just come back from sightseeing work of arts and treasures. The two lead me by hands to the Yamato exhibition. There are only a few people around, maybe because it's evening.

"Gozaru~"
"Gozaru nano desu!"

Pochi and Tama who are wearing haori that look like Shinsengumi outfits are taking poses with wooden swords modeled after Japanese katana on their hands.

"Fu fuhn, they look the part right. I've bought them from the cosplay corner, or rather, souvenir corner."
"Arisa, I cannot commend on your wasteful spending."

Liza scolds her, but Arisa's pocket money comes from the salary she's got from Nina-san. I can't get used with, "What belongs to the slaves also belongs to the master.", kind of common sense at all.

There are also a corner exhibiting Japanese katana, but they're treated as [Ancient Swords]. It seem like it didn't get spread.

The dummy of Yamato-san's side arm, the holy sword Claiomh Solais, is being displayed at the center of the katana exhibition corner.
It's a big sword nearly two meters long. From what I remember, Claiomh Solais should have been a one-handed sword in the previous world, but since it's a knowledge from games, it's not a reliable one.
If Yamato-san can use this sword, that person might unexpectedly have large body build.

A huge three meters wide picture is being displayed behind the dummy sword.
It's a picture of Yamato-san fighting against a demon lord with golden body standing on top of a castle. Yamato-san is depicted riding on a dragon's back while wielding the holy sword. Yamato-san looks slightly small, but since the dragon and the demon lord are big, I guess it can't be helped.
Numerous floating swords are pictured there, it's probably the artist's interpretation. It's a scene that seems likely to appear in an anime.

"There is no such thing as human riding on a dragon."
"Eeh~, don't something like dragon knight fire you up."

Liza looks a bit displeased when she sees the picture of Yamato-san riding a dragon. The scalekin might be people who deify dragons.
I somehow understand why Arisa used [Fired up], instead of [Burned].
Mia is nodding besides Arisa, I'm not going to pursue the reason for that.

Arisa, be more modest in being a culture hazard.

Before we could get to the clothes exhibition, a museum official notifies us that the building is closing, so the tour ends. Let's come again if we have time.
According to Arisa who has toured it earlier, there are various cosplay costumes inside, but I think that they're not cosplay but what the people in that era are wearing.

◇

When we get back to the earl's mansion, lady Karina who's got left behind tries to pick a quarrel with me, but she quickly forgives me after Pochi and Tama present her with the matching shinsegumi's haori, and the headband as souvenirs. She's quite calculating.

Lady Karina's maids group raise cheer of joy when I tell them that I'm in charge of the cooking tonight, but since I don't think I could make anything extravagance, it's troubling when they're this happy.

For the sake of fixing Pochi's hate with fish, I'm making a fish dish today.

"How about it, Arisa helped dressed me, do you think it suits me?"
"It suits you really well."

I answer half-heartedly to lady Karina who purposely comes to the kitchen to show me the haori she's wearing. Is she really that happy for the matching outfit with Pochi and the others?

I make the fish into minced meat.
It hits upon me when I see the dumplings for the ration yesterday; the fish meat hamburg steak. I slightly mix in goat fat to add some subtle

flavors, since the taste would be too plain with just fish meat. I'm unsure with the amount of eggs I have in stock for this. Since Karina maids group looks to be free, let's ask them to buy some eggs.

"Master, the oil is boiling."

I ask Lulu to fry the potatoes. Potato is a must for hamburg steak. Next, I quickly make the carrot glace. The potatoes are piling up, I'll make mashed potatoes from it. I put the asparagus look-a-like as the garnish.

The Worcester-like sauce that I've got from the head chef in Gururian city is going to be the sauce. I can make it myself since I've been taught the recipe too, but it's not usable for now since it needs fermentation. Therefore, I decide to use the ones from the parting gift just like that.

"Pochi!""Tama!"

The two people call each other's name and hug when they see the hamburg steak. Are you really that happy? That remind me, they're also overjoyed when I make it with ordinary meat back then. There's no sauce at that time, so I make a faux sauce with the soy sauce as the base.

I tell everyone beforehand that there is no additional serving for the hamburg steak, so they eat it while savoring the taste.

"Delishya~"
"Though it's different from before, it's delicious nodesu."
"Delicious~♪"

Looks like it's quite popular.

"It's the first time I've eaten this dish."
"I'm eating such luxurious dish that even Karina-sama hasn't eaten!"

"Erina, stop being vulgar during the meal."

The mouths that need to feed have increased with lady Karina's and her maid group'. I'm the one who invited them at first, but the maid group are eating together before I know it.

"Pochi, is it delicious?"
"Yes, nano desu!"
"Really?"
"Real, ly, nano desu!"

Pochi bends her body with the "Real", and stretch out her whole being with the "Ly" to express the deliciousness. It's cute, but I have to tell her the truth here.

"Pochi-kun."
"Yes, captain."

Captain is it.

"I have a serious thing to report."
"Aye."

Why are you saluting.

"That hamburg steak is made with fish."
"Fissh meat nano desu?"

Pochi leans her head to one side. Why are you using strange intonation.

"Like I said, it's not meat, it's fish."
"L, lie nano desu! Master is a bully nano desu."
"Pochi-chan, it's not a lie. I was beside master so I saw it too. It was certainly made with minced fish."

"Gaa~n, nano desu."

Pochi falls to the ground while supported by both her hands. Why are you shocked to that extent.
Tama pats the shoulder of Pochi who's fallen down.

"Pochi."
"Tamaa."

Tama strongly puts her thumbs up and continues her words.

"Delicious is~ Justice!"
"!"

Pochi is astonished with Tama's words.
It somehow stinks of a small theatric play, so I glance at Arisa who averts her eyes. So you really are the one behind this.

"Tama speaks the truth nodesu. Delicious thing is supreme nano desu!"

Pochi raises her face, and gazes at the sky with an expression as if enlightened. Since we're indoor, the only thing that could be seen there is the chandelier, but no one is retorting.
For the time being, Pochi has become better with fish. When we're eating fish dish, she asks me or Lulu to take out the bones, but she doesn't dislike it anymore.

◇

"Arisa, do you want to read this book?"
"Nn~? The book you've bought with Toruma ossan? Is there a book for intermediate level light magic?"

Arisa invited me to the bathroom when we were relaxing on the sofa after meal, so I changed the subject to avert her attention. The bathroom here is for single-person use only with a bath tub, so I can't relax if I get intruded during the bath.

"T, these are!"

I show Arisa the magic book for intermediate level light magic, explosion magic, and destruction magic manual.

"Kuh, if I dye my hair to pink, I'd exactly become the heroine."

Yeah yeah.
Next, I take out the space magic book that only has the spells written in it.

"What's this one? The book looks to be very badly managed..."

Arisa's expression changes after she sees the spell.

"Hey, don't tell me this is space magic?"
"It is."
"Don't, say, it, so easily~~~."

I slightly pull away from Arisa who's loaded her words with excessive force while saying, "Uga".

"It surely is unusual, but people who can use space magic aren't that rare right?"

From what I see in all the cities I've been so far, shadow magic is the rarest. I've never seen any user beside Zen.
The runner-ups are explosion, destruction, and mind magic, beside lady

Ringrande and Arisa, the only other users of those magic are demons and the demon lord.
Following it are ghost, summoning, and space magic, their users are few, but in a big city, there are several people who can use them.

"What are you saying! It's space magic you know, space magic! It's not a standard cheat!"
"It'd be convenient if there's a teleport magic, but you don't have enough skill points to learn space magic right?"

Arisa's degree of excitement has decreased somewhat.
I'm sorry to spoil the fun, but even if there is a teleport magic, it'd be an advanced level.

"Fuhahaha, since when did you misunderstand that skill points are fixed?"

Arisa looks down from the sofa while looking proud.

That's a surprise.

8-7. Nighttime Training

*

Satou's here. Recently, on top of being online, save data is saved automatically, making the reset trick like how it's used to be in the past becomes unusable, it feels slightly lonely. There's just something good about reset isn't it.

◇

"What do you mean? Don't tell me, it can be reset?"
"It can you know? Didn't I tell you?"

This is the first time I've heard it of course.
I still have grandly excessive skill points remaining, but since the prospect of leveling up isn't too bright for me, the existence of reset is quite important.

"How do we do it?"
"You acquire the reset skill, 『Reset』, and execute it. You can get back all points from all skills except unique and gift ones."

How convenient.
And how unreasonable. It's an unrelated skill for me who cannot choose reset.

"Hey, don't show such face."

She can see through the poker face skill like always.

"Even reset isn't all-powerful."

If it was, you could change skills composition during a fight. That reminds me, that anime [Esper Senotan] I've watched does similar things.

"You lost 5-20% of your skill point once you use it you know. And there is no way to recover them."

I'll lost 155-620 skill points if I use it huh, the remuneration is too great. I understand why Arisa has never used it now.

"There's also another reason why I don't want to use it~."

When I ask it, she answers, "REALLY, painful."
Then, wouldn't the neighborhood get annoyed if she used reset here. I was going to prepare pain-killer for her, but according to Saga hero, there were records of increased lost points when the person involved used medicines.

"Do you have any place in mind where it's okay to make noises?"
"Wait a bit."

I execute the wind magic that I've learned, <<Secret Field>>.
With this, sounds will not leak out for several hours.

"I've used the magic to make this place private. Sounds won't leak with this."
"Then we can do ecchi things as we please right."
"I'd cancel it you know?"

This Arisa really never changes huh.

◇

I put Arisa who is exhausted to rest on my lap.

After she executed reset, I hugged Arisa on my lap, but not only she clawed my back, she was also going wild on my arms. I was worried that her violet hair would turn white, but it was just an imaginary fear. When the reset is over, she lost her consciousness, so I let her slept on my lap on the sofa, but...

"Arisa, if you're going to sexually harass me, I'll put you down from my lap okay?"

Even after that much pain, what a tough girl. She put herself in a delicate position while pretending to be asleep.

"So, did it go well?"
"Sort of~, I don't quite have enough points, so in exchange of mind and light magic, I've got space magic level 6."

Arisa is feeling accomplished, but I have to warn her beforehand.

"Arisa, this is an order. Barging into the bathroom while I'm bathing or peeking at me changing are forbidden beside during emergency."
"Guha, at least, at least, do that order if I get caught red-handed please. The little bit of reward for a maiden~~~."

She's really thinking about it after all huh.

◇

Arisa requests to have her test her magic to her heart's content, so we go to the underground labyrinth. I inform Liza when we are going out.

The duke's subordinates are on the lookout at the teleport device and the hole that I've made before, so I make a new passage in another place to the underground labyrinth.

"The king has donkey ears."

I understand what she's trying to say, but what would we do if there are soldiers patrolling the area. There's none though of course.

"Stop saying stupid things, let's go."

I carry Arisa on my arms, and jump below. It's not connected to the floor where I fight the demon lord, but another place.

"Haa, I thought I was going to die."

How rude. I regulated the speed properly.
Since I'm afraid that the effect from big magic would be felt above ground, I dive three layers below.

"What kind of place is this? It looks like a labyrinth, but there's no monster."
"It's the remain of a labyrinth."
"Ee~ it feels like the demon lord will really come out."

Hmm?
What is she saying?

"Didn't I say yesterday? When I was hunting demons, I also defeated a demon lord that popped up."

Even though Arisa was saying, "Good work~", or, "It was hard huh~" herself.

"Eh, you were serious?"
"Very serious."
"Lying~ you're lying, if it's true, your title should have become『True Hero』!"

She's knowledgeable about it.
Might as well, I put on the hero Nanashi style and the title [True Hero]. I do not don the wig, so my hair remains black. I have to buy one next time.

"Uwah, it's true. How did you defeat it? Ah, it must be with a holy sword of course."

Galatine delivers the decisive blow, but the one that does the most works is Durandal, so I show that one to her.
Arisa is returning the sword, but I tell her to keep it.

"The demon lord has been defeated, so I'll leave it to Arisa. I have a lot of other weapons, so it's fine."

I'm thinking of leaving one to Arisa for an insurance if anything happens, but Arisa interprets it differently, and desperately draws closer to me.

"Don't tell me that the repatriation offer from the god has come."

The heck is that.

"After you defeat the demon lord and become the『True Hero』, it seems that the god will come to ask if you want to be repatriated, or remain in this world as a hero. The story is that if you answer『Go home』then, you'd get sent back to your previous world."
"There's no need to worry about it, even if the god asks me if I want to go back, I'll stay here for the present time."

I can't go back to the previous world in peace before Arisa, Pochi, and the

others become strong enough to defeat demons.
Furthermore, I'm not summoned with the normal hero summoning, so there's no guarantee that I can go back to the previous world. If I get the chance to do it, I'll ask to have a letter for my family delivered instead of myself. If I just write [I'm healthy], I feel like they will forgive me. My family are carefree unlike me, so it's probably alright.

"Th, that means..."

Oops, Arisa who's misunderstood is blushing, let's talk about something stupid.

"I haven't finished the sightseeing of this world after all."
"He?"

The angry Arisa is hitting me softly, let's take it contently.

◇

"Did you get any rare drop? Like demon lord core (Demon Core)?"

Although it seems to be something real, looks like the thing called [Demon Lord Core (Demon Core)] doesn't exist.

"There's nothing great. There are two liuyedao that the demon lord uses, but they're too big for human, it's unusable. Moreover, one of them is broken. Other things are belongings of [Wings of Liberty], like demon summoning magic book, or specific magic circle for summoning the short horn, and also, miscellaneous accessories."

Those accessories belong to nobles, so they could be worth some money, but since it'd likely be doubted from robbery, I melt them to become

materials instead.
I have a lot of Short Horn, the original collection goal, but there's no need to say it.

"Demon summoning, it doesn't use mobile phone or note PC does it."
"It doesn't."

It's just that, since it's a dangerous book with methods to summon upper demon or the ceremony for demon lord revival, I intend to store it away. I can just burn it, but since there's a possibility that the content of the spell can be applied for other magic, I'm going to keep it.

I test elementary level magic together with Arisa, but it's dangerous to try intermediate and higher level magic with Arisa, so I go alone to a gigantic floor to test them. As expected of real magic intended for attacking, not blacksmithing. You can't joke around with the power.
I can only use [Implosion] of explosion magic, and powered-down [Laser] of light magic when I'm in a town.
I will have Toruma's parent house to create scrolls that are a bit more usable.

"Welcome back."

Arisa who's welcoming me is looking listless on the cushion she's put on the floor.
She's probably totally exhausted. I can smell sweet scent, so she's probably drunk mana recovery potion while testing her magic.

"What kind of extreme magic did you use. I was scared that the labyrinth would collapse you know."

That's strange.
On top of being quite far from her, I covered the inner wall with the barrier magic that I had learned.

"I'm sorry, it looks like I wasn't serene enough."
"It's fine already. I can't get surprised anymore."

In other words, you were surprised huh.

"Rather than that, could you make something like this?"

Arisa is asking me to make a carved seal, that's drawn the magic book, on a board. Looks like it's a unique mark needed to be put at the teleport destination for the only teleport magic in the space magic book that has until intermediate level in it.

"Seems like you'd be able to do trading alone with this."
"Please don't be absurd. It only reaches several kilometers at most. Even leveling up the skill only help to increase number of people that can be teleported together, and decrease MP consumption on this magic."

Presently, Arisa can only take one person along with her. Moreover, she'll run out of magic power by just leaping a bit of distance. The fuel consumption looks bad.

"During a real emergency, I can use [Over Boost], and take everyone along to escape."

Oh, that's the best.
I give Arisa several carved seal boards that I've finished making on the magic granting stand. These take one gold coin and two silver coins to make, it looks like a space magician can easily run out of money.

Since we're here already, I hide one carved seal board on this place.

8-8. At Toruma's Residence

*

Satou's here. Japanese houses can be described as rabbit's huts, but I think 1LDK is enough for living alone. The cleaning and tidying would be troublesome if it's too wide.

◇

"What are you making this time?"
"It's a wire."

The workshop visits are scheduled for the afternoon today, so I spend the free time to do some handiworks. Even though I say wire, it's not a simple steel thread. If I entwine magic liquid to a yarn, it becomes able to move it at my discretion. It can't move quite freely at will, so it might be good to think carefully on the knit direction.

Tama who sits on my lap has been entangling with the wire, so the work doesn't really progress. I've asked Mia to help me to hold the yarn, but it seems she's having more fun with the wire.

Mia, even if you're tired, please don't play with the wire together with Tama.

"Fuffuffuu, I know what you're actually making!"

Hoo?

"It must be, a whip sword!"

The heck is that?
Is there even any relation with wire.

"I'm just making a normal wire though?"
"Eh, boring."

The whip sword Arisa is talking about seems to come out in a certain anime, it's a fantasy weapon where the sword can detach like a whip connected with wire and back to sword shape. It's probably like a three-secion staff.

I don't think that it's practical at all.
When I tell that to Arisa, she says, "It's romantic." It can't be helped if it's a romance then.

Although, if I have the nature magic [Magic Hand] and [Mana String], I probably won't need the wire that can moves at will, but it might be better not to tell her that.

◇

The workshop visits in the afternoon finishes faster than scheduled, so I decide to come to Toruma's residence as I've promised the other day.
I'm followed by Nana, Arisa, and for some reason, also lady Karina and her maid Pina. Pochi and Tama naturally don't look like they want to go, and since the others also seem like they don't want to meet Toruma, I leave them behind. You've done a great job getting hated Toruma ossan.

Liza asked me to have her also followed, but I requested her to teach Lulu and the others self-defense and left them. If I thoughtlessly let her come, there's a high probably that she'll get offended there.

I've imagined that Toruma's residence will be a 3LDK since I'm told that it's a detached building of the viscount Shimen's mansion, but instead, the residence is easily bigger than the mansion we're staying. We enter from the back door near Toruma's residence so I don't get to see the main building, but it must be an imposing building.

Viscount Shimen is flourishing alright. No wait, the building is probably the fruit of many generations' powers.

"Excuse me for my long absence, Hayuna-san."
"It has been a while, Satou-san. Ara, I have to stop calling you Satou-san. Since you've got a peerage, I wonder if I have to call you with your house name."

Hayuna-san who I haven't seen for a while is wearing a relaxed noble wife-like clothes. They're not gaudy, but it looks graceful and of high-quality. Mayuna-chan is being cuddled by a middle-aged maid who looks to be the wet-nurse.

"I have come back, young organism."

Nana pokes Mayuna-chan with her finger, and the little hand catches that finger. Nana's face looks like it's melting when she sees that gesture.

Meanwhile, lady Karina looks at that situation very interestingly, but she doesn't try to approach the baby at all.

"Do you want to try holding her in your arm, Karina-sama?"

Hayuna-san has offered so to lady Karina, but she only replies by shaking her head. Come to think of it, she's docile in front of Toruma. Unexpectedly, he might have been her first love.

◇

"Have Karina-sama gone to the opera house?"
"No, there wasn't a good opportunity..."
"You should go by all means. You have to hear the miraculous voice of Lulilutoa the fairy at least once!"
"Hee, by fairy, you mean elf?"
"It's difficult to distinguish between fairy, but it's probably an elf."

We're having a chat while enjoying tea and snacks on the terrace. Hayuna-san is talking about various topics with Karina who's being quiet and meek, but she doesn't respond it well. Arisa follows-up Hayuna-san to help her. Nana is going crazy about the baby of course.

"Oh right, Satou-dono."
"What is it?"

Toruma is going to say something at this time, but it will forever remain a mystery.
That is because the mood has been dyed by the appearance of a woman who pushes through the bushes.

"Ara, Toruma-niisan, I've thought you are eloping, you've come back?"
"Hey, Rin, it's been a while. You've become quite beautiful."

The one that appears is lady Ringrande. She's calling Toruma brother due to the habit since her childhood, but he's actually her cousin. Looks like she doesn't have her armor and great sword today. She's wearing red knight-like clothes with a thin sword hanging. However, judging from how she appears, is she being chased by someone?

"Toruma-niisan, I'm sorry, but can you let me hide here for a bit?"
"No problem. I've never declined a request from Rin right?"

"Thank you, nii-san is always reliable--"

Lady Ringrande scans on the people around while thanking Toruma closely, and immediately after she sees me on the corner of her eyes, she approaches.

"You, after failing to hit on Sera, now you're trying to approach her from the moat outside?"

That's quite outrageous even for a false accusation. The misunderstanding should have been cleared by Sera's explanation in the first place.
Arisa glances for an instant, but I gesture to her not to cut into the conversation.

"Sera-sama most likely had explained it already, but I just met her by chance when I was helping the food distribution on the downtown."

I try to tell her that it's just an unfounded misunderstanding, but the KY ossan talks about unneeded things as expected.

"So Satou-dono is aiming for Sera huh, I've thought that you surely will marry Karina since you've brought her here from Muno territory. It's still not enough with eight huh, I'm really jealous of young people."
"Toruma-niisan, are you speaking the truth?"
"Un? It's mostly true yeah."

Ossan, please restrain yourself from speaking statements that will birth misunderstandings. Eight you say, stop including lady Karina in the equation.

"You're going to make the cute Sera your ninth lover? I won't forgive you."
"Err~ Ringrande-sama? I'll say this many times over, it's a misunderstanding okay?"

She pulls the thin sword and comes toward me.

"Excuses are useless. I'll beat you into shape once to correct your character. Or, is that sword on your waist just a decoration?"

It is a decoration though.
She looks like she'll get mad if I say that. She's already mad even if I don't say it though.
Arisa is grinning while laughing and saying, "Go get her~?", irresponsibly fanning her. Hayuna-san looks troubled even though she doesn't really understand the situation. Nana shows her face and says, "Master, may the fortune be with you.", and goes back to the baby--must be because she trusts me.

At time like this, Karina who's usually the fastest to pick a quarrel is quiet. I've thought that she's still being meek, but she looks grim for some reason. She's muttering, "Ringrande? Cousin Rin? That's the genius magician who's become the hero's companion?" in a low voice. I prefer her usual, "It's a fight desuwa.", than her being like this.

Looks like there's some kind of discord between them, so I won't involve myself with it.

"I understand, I may be inadequate, but please instruct me well."

Can't be helped.
Might as well get her teach me how to fight. I've also been ridiculed by the demon lord, so this is just right.
While walking to the courtyard where she's standing by, I draw the fairy sword, taking the breaths of lady Ringrande, Hayuna-san and the others. I wonder who's the one that murmurs, "Beautiful."

I don't put magic power into the fairy sword, and wield it in its

lightweight state.

Lady Ringrande stabs with her thin sword without any preparation. The course is to my cheek. The stabs is quick as one expects of the thin sword.

I prepare the fairy sword in low stance to brush the attack off.

Before the thin sword touch the fairy sword, she retracts and holds it, and when I'm swinging the fairy sword up, she pushes the thin sword to my defenseless chest.

Wait, lady Ringrande? That's going straight to my heart you know?
I'm thinking that she's going to stop before hitting, but she looks like she's thinking that insects that follow lady Sera around should just die, scary.

I'm pulling the short cane with my other hand which doesn't hold the fairy sword to ward off the thin sword. Of course, the short cane will be easily cut if it blocks the thin sword, but as if seeing it as a dagger since I move it in an instant, Ringrande pulls back her thin sword, and opens up some distances.

"Fumu, you're quite good. It doesn't seem like your mithril sword is only for show. You were pretending to be an amateur by having your eyes looked all over the place right. I didn't think that you had prepared your next move beforehand."

I see, my lines of sight huh. I didn't think that.
Afterwards, I learn the way to use my line of sight to feint, reading the breath, and many other techniques that aren't covered in skills.

Misunderstandings are good sometimes.

8-9. At Toruma's Residence (2)

*

Satou's here. Mad dogs kind of people often appear in tales, but in the previous world, I've only ever seen those kinds during my school days. Are they mellowing with ages? In a parallel world, I feel that they'd get weeded out before they could get mellowed.

◇

"Hoo, the one they call Silver Valkyrie of the Battlefield is playing together with a kid huh?"

The people who are intruding this precious lady Ringrande's swordsmanship classroom are three knights wearing white armors. They're subordinates of Shiga kingdom king, the holy knights, and also; the elderly man, and the humorous yet handsome young man have [Shiga Eight Sword] titles. The humorous handsome young man is called Sharlick Shiga. The third prince of Shiga kingdom.

By the way, by kid, did he mean me?

"Prince Sharlick, isn't it impolite to intrude on other people's house even if he's your retainer?"
"Ringrande, you're too stiff. Heya, little brother of viscount Shimen--."
"Toruma. Your highness."

Toruma supplemented the prince who was hesitating.
Ossan can read this kind of atmosphere huh. In a way, he's really like a noble.
Without looking excited, the prince says, "Sorry to intrude.", and Toruma

also allow him like it's natural.

Nevertheless, I know that he has a business with lady Ringrande, but what are these guys coming here for?

"I have some businesses with Ringrande. You guys, step away."

He said it like a request, but that was an order alright.

"Your highness, I'm sorry, but this is my house, and she is my cousin. Even if it's your highness, it'll be better if you avoid being alone together with an unmarried woman."
"Fuhn, what's wrong with fiancees being alone together."
"Our engagement should have been canceled since seven years ago."

Well then, I want to get away from this complicated spot, I wonder what I should do.

"Your highness, you should stop with the troublesome talks, and just do it like this."

The holy knight boy who have been looking like a mischievous kid since earlier draws his sword and comes to me while slashing it.
What's with this guy? Is his head alright?

His rushing speed is fast, but compared to lady Ringrande, his swordsmanship is full of holes.

"Oh you're drawing your sword in front of his highness, it's fine to label you as a rebel then right."

What kind of logic is that. Hair-splitting-ly bad false accusation.
Since he uses a mithril alloy sword known for its hardness, I avoid his attack without blocking with the fairy sword. However, the boy continues

attacking relentlessly.

Is he a battle maniac?

"Oyo? That mithril sword isn't only for show eh. Aha, can you block this?"

The boy releases an consecutive attacks technique like tornado.
Is this a fighting game.

I will look too conspicuous if I avoid that, so I receive it with my sword and pretend to be blown back. Lady Karina and Hayuna-san call out my name with worry. Arisa probably understands since my health hasn't decreased, and Nana doesn't seem to worry from the beginning. They really trust me~. They really trust me, right?

Lady Karina literally jumps with Raka's power and holds me on her arms.
OH! fuka, fuka.
<TLN: onomatopoeia for 'soft soft'.>

"Hee, you can use physical reinforcement too eh? If you pick up his sword, I'd be your opponent you know?"

I stop lady Karina's hand that's going to pick my sword. She cannot win.

"You can't, Karin-sama(.)"

Meanwhile, Toruma is doing his best trying to stop the prince. He's quite weak-willed, but work hard.

"Your highness, he's a retainer of baron Muno, and a noble who holds peerage. Can you please stop the man over there?"
"Hou, serving that cursed territory, he must've been quite broke."

Huh? I get slightly angry from the line just now. I might be quite fond of

baron Muno and his retainers if I say so myself. Arisa looks quite offended, but as expected, the opponent is too bad, she can't intervene.

"I won't forgive you for insulting our territory, even if you're the prince. I'll make you take back that word, even if I have to risk my life."
"Fuhn, are you trying to gain favor of that kid and join the rank of noble? Women should just stay in the home raise the children you've birthed obediently."

Lady Karina has told me that she has never participated in the upper society even once, so that's probably why he doesn't know her. It seems he's thinking that she's the wife or a mistress of the retainer of baron Muno, in other word, a worthless noble, not his daughter. It's pitiful.

"I am the second daughter of baron Muno, Karina desuwa. There's no reason to treat me like a maidservant you know?"

Lady Karina stands up in front of the prince while she puts her hands on her waist, firmly facing to the front and glares at him.
I stand up while patting my head who has fallen to the ground.

The opponent is a prince, the right thing to do here is to withdraw.

"I cannot remain silent since my master's house is insulted. Even if you're a prince, I'll have you retract your words earlier."

Huh~?
Even though the right thing to do was to wait carefully. I lined up side-by-side with lady Karina, and said such words. It must have been the influence of this teenage body. I'll leave it at that.
At minimum, I'm discreet enough to leave the sword in the sheath. I'm certain to become the target of punishment if I face my sword toward the royal family.

"Karina-dono, our winning percentage is limitlessly zero understand?"
"Raka-san, there are times when a woman must not withdraw."

The two are heating up? However, you shouldn't confront him physically since he's a royal family okay.

"As ever, you think women are only tools for giving birth to children."

Lady Ringrande says so in a voice shaking with anger while cutting herself between lady Karina and the prince.
Toruma comes and claps Karina's shoulder. Her feet are trembling. She was really forcing herself.

"Your highness, the person you've falsely accused is the hero of the Muno city defensive war. Moreover, he's defeated the demon that's appeared in Gururian city, and currently stays in this dukedom capital as the duke Oyugock's guest of honor. Putting aside your highness, I think it would trouble the people over there."

Shifting the blame from the prince to the battle maniac boy huh.
The prince wouldn't back down if he was criticized after all.

"Fuhn, it can't be helped, I suppose I'll leave it here. It'd be troubling if the available forces decreased before the demon lord awakens.
Right, was it Toruma? The only capital is the royal capital. Calling Oyugock city a capital is a blasphemy somewhat."

The prince leaves while firing such parting shot.

I didn't think that Toruma would be the one who restored peace to this place.
Nevertheless, I'm worried with the way that prince is speaking as if the demon lord will be revived here for certain. Don't tell me, the mastermind behind the [Wings of Liberty] isn't the third prince, is he?

◇

"Is that prince going to participate in the martial arts tournament too?"
"No, that's not it--you're doing well after getting that attack."
"I had a magic potion in my pocket just at the right time."

I wave the empty bottle to deceive her.
Toruma answers my question.

"I think his highness is going to attend the wedding ceremony of Rin's little brother, Tisrad, that is to be held after the tournament ends."

Tisrad is a grandchild of duke Oyugock, he's going to marry the daughter of marquis Elett it seems. The next duke is going to be the father of lady Ringrande, and the next one after that seems to be Tisrad's turn. It seem she has also gone home in order to attend this wedding.

"There's also a rumor that his majesty will also attend this ceremony."
"Toruma-niisan, that's a confidential matter. Please don't spread it around too much."

The maid recommends me to change my tattered clothes to new ones, so I leave from here.

Still, the development is progressing by leaps and bounds.

The settled matters are, [The third prince, Shalrick, wants to make lady Ringrande his bride.], [Lady Ringrande does not want that.], [The little brother of lady Ringrande is going to get married], I guess.
The unsettled matters are, [The king might come for the wedding ceremony.], [The third prince and his companions might be certain that

the demon lord would appear in the dukedom capital.]

It's scary if a different demon lord appears during the wedding ceremony.

When I'm going to leave Toruma's residence after changing clothes, lady Ringrande calls out to me.

"You're better than I've thought. Come to the castle if you want to become stronger. I'll give you some lessons while I'm in the dukedom capital."

I'd be glad to receive her lessons, but I hate to do it in a conspicuous place like the castle.

"I'll say this just in case, it's not like I've recognized your relationship with Sera alright?"

Like I said, it's a misunderstanding.
When I've exhausted myself telling her that it's a "Misunderstanding", she gets angry instead, "What are you dissatisfied with Sera with". What an incoherent person.

Arisa secretly says, "A tsundere has come", is this tsundere?

◇

"I won't forgive him."
"That's right. It's good that he's the third prince."
"You're right~ That's the silver lining."

It seems that lady Karina who's being indignant cannot comprehend

Arisa's and my words.

"See, if that became the king of this era, it'd be hard to live in this kingdom."
"When that happen, I have no choice but to move to Saga empire."

To help improve lady Karina's mood a bit, Arisa and me are joking around for a bit.

"Y, you can't desuwa. Satou is father's retainer, so you mustn't leave."

Lady Karina presses on me as if shaken, speaking worryingly. Close. Lady Karina, you're close. If you're this close, various things will hit--

Nana's breast are great, but lady Karina's volumes are extraordinary. I'm dangerously almost get adrift.

"Kick."

We've been havng a conversation on the courtyard of earl Walgock's mansion, but Mia appears out of nowhere and kicks me. She forcibly puts herself between lady Karina and me, opening some distances.

I tell lady Karina, "The thing about Saga empire is just a joke.", while patting Mia's head. I think she says something like, "Is, is that so, then it's fine desuwa", while blushing for a bit.

◇

In the evening of this day, I get entangled with the grumblings of lady Karina and her maids about the matter with the prince. Someone from the maid trope has brought liquor so I keep Arisa and the others away. I

don't want to repeat that tragedy again.

Liza has been dispatched as the watchdog, she's participating in the drinking bout together with me. Liza certainly doesn't get hangover, but she goes to sleep instead. She's sleeping in a beautiful posture while sitting even now.

The two younger maids are smashed, they're sleeping on my laps. Lady Karina's gazes look scary.

"Satou! You should be gentler with me desuwa."
"That's right, chevalier-sama should make a rice porridge for me."

This is why drunkards are.
Lady Karina and Pina are only saying what they want to say each. They probably won't remember what they've said themselves tomorrow.

Raka wisely keeps silent.
I was going to follow its exemplar, but the two were hanging on each of my sides while saying, "Hey, are you listening?", and, "Does chevalier-sama prefer flat chest or kyonyuu, which is it!" One side feels too good, I'm not able to push them away.

Let's decline any invitation for drinking bout from tomorrow on.
Since the drunk Lady Karina is erotic, it's a bit hard to get entangled like this.

Let's make the rice porridge as the main gentle menu for the breakfast tomorrow.

8-10. To the Duke's Castle

*

Satou's here. During my school days, there was this wonderful catchphrase from the often-airing merchant's CM, "Crossing thousands of miles for meals." Much less thousands of miles, I've crossed over worlds instead.

◇

Why is this happening.

"Chevalier-sama, we've finished peeling the prawns' shells."
"Ah, not like that, you have to cover this with the flour once."
"Are we really going to use these leaves?"
"Yes, please wash the perilla with water."

Lulu and me are frantically making tempura with the duke's chefs in the duke's castle kitchen.

It was several hours before that--

◇

"Chevalier-sama, a messenger has come from the duke's castle."

Shelna-san told me while looking like she was seeing something heartwarming.
Right now I'm being toyed like a dress-up doll by Arisa under the pretext

of the fitting session for the ball.

"Did you make any promise?"
"No, the plan today is only for me to attend the ball in the castle from the evening."

I tear off Arisa who has been using the opportunity to touch me all over while taking measurements, and change to the robe that Lulu has handed to me. I see that my hair isn't disordered from the mirror that Liza is holding, so I go to the messenger just as it is.

The one waiting in the room is the duke castle's consul aide--or not, it's the assistant who is taking notes in the back back then. He's saying that the duke wants to meet me in secret.

In secret.

In other words, it must be about the matter with the prince yesterday.
It shouldn't possibly be because of lady Sera. Even if lady Ringrande makes a fuss over the misunderstanding, lady Sera is still a miko of Tenion temple. Her name is also not Sera Oyugock, but [Sera], she's probably the so-called nun. Even if I make advances at her, we won't be able to get married. Before that, I don't even have any intention of making one.

Just in case, I ask about the subject to the messenger-san, but he doesn't know the detail after all.
For now, I'll have Arisa follows me to the castle.

"Arisa."
"What? This looks good on me right? You can praise me to your heart contents now~."

She's wearing the exact same maid uniform as the maids in Muno castle.

Her blond wig isn't only styled in twin tail, but they're also loosely rolled. So this is the reason why she's coaxed me in making the hair iron-like magic tool the other day.

"Yeah, it's cute, it's cute. However, we're going to the castle, so take them off."

I tell Arisa to take off the slaver collar that she's put herself. She hasn't been using it recently, so what happens?

"If I wear it with maid uniform, won't you suddenly get a rush of immoral urge and become tempted to push me down?"
"I won't."

She says "Chiee" due to my immediate answer, and removes the collar.
I'm glad that the messenger is in the other carriage.

◇

"Leon's written in the letter that sir Pendragon isn't only well-versed in swordsmanship, and magic, but also in cooking."

Who's this Leon again.
Oh right, it's baron Muno's name if I'm not mistaken. I wonder what did he write in the letter.
We're in the same room as the one I've met with the duke in, a few days ago. Today, there aren't only the secret bodyguards around, lady Ringrande is also here.

"Fuhn, your swordsmanship yesterday is quite good, but you can also use magic huh. Next time when I'm coaching you, I'll have the combined techniques of swordsmanship and magic--"

"Rin."
"Ara, I'm sorry, grandfather."

According to the information from Shelna-san, it seems that the duke spoils his grandchild, lady Ringrande.
I've also got a bonus information that tells the third son of the duke who has kidnapped Sera for the [Wings of Liberty] is currently under house arrest under the guise of recuperation in one of the spire.
Confirming on my map, members of [Wings of Liberty], except the ones who have been gathering in earl Bobi's mansion and escaped to the city's suburb, are imprisoned in the dungeon below the castle.

"And so, I'd like you to show off your cooking skill for the ball tonight."
"I do not know what baron-sama has described in regard to my cooking, but I'm only good at making food suited for plebian's palate, as for high class dishes--"
"Come to think of it, Sera has praised your cooking too, you must've won her favor with your cooking haven't you."
"Rin. Leave here if you're going to pick a quarrel with the guest."
"I'm sorry, grandfather, it wasn't on purpose."

The duke seem like he can't match her, he looks down-hearted.

"I do not mean of you to make every dishes in the banquet. I don't mind if you only make that dish called Tempura that Leon's written."
"Then, I will try to live up to duke-sama's expectation despite my shortcoming."

I wasn't able to bring up the matter about the third prince from yesterday, but it'd be better for me to get good impressions from the duke. I'm not thinking of making him my ally, but at least I don't want to make an enemy out of him.
I don't care if the third prince wants to attack me, but it'll be troublesome if he meddles with my companions.

◇

"You good sir over there, I've got just the riight ideas to perk it up."

Arisa, why are you saying it like an underling.

"Say it normally."
"It's okay isn't it, just for a bit."

Summarizing Arisa's suggestions, they're ideas she's got from dishes in manga. I decide to pick something that can actually be made from among those ideas and practice it.
I'm led to a kitchen by a maid, it's become a battlefield for the people who are preparing for tonight.

"Oh, yer', no, err~, you are the noble they exaggeratedly call miracle chef huh, is it?"

This is the first time I've heard that nickname.
Still, he's trying too hard to use polite speechs.

"I'm sorry, our boss is certainly skilled, but he's not good with words, he can't speak polite speech well."

I see.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Satou Pendragon. It's fine for you to speak like usual if you're bad with polite speech."

When I say so, the head-chef and the chef who's followed him plainly look relieved.

"Oh, sorry bout that. I'm an old friend of the head chef at Gururian viceroy's place y'see. He's sent me a letter praising you."

Ah, that person is it. When I got some free times the day after the banquet, I made him teach me how to make the sauce and various techniques.

"Use this place here, it's a bit cramped, but there are all kinds of cooking utensils available. These two here are in charge of miscellaneous chores, call them if you need ingredients."
"Yes, thank you for everything."

I ask an errand boy in the mansion to call Lulu here. Recently, Lulu's cooking skill has become equal to an expert, so if Lulu who knows my way of cooking comes, It'll really help.

◇

I've prepared three kind of dishes.

The first is the tempuras as requested by the duke. The deep-fried food in this world are mostly fried with oils made from animals, but since it looks like it's bad for the body, I use oil from oily-salad-like vegetable. I'm able to make tempura sauce that's more delicious than usual since there are katsuoboshi in the duke castle's ingredient storeroom, maybe because it can be transported here via the river.
Half of the tempuras are fried and put on the table, and the other half are fried on the spot when someone is going to eat them with the help of Lulu and servers who are standing by near the table, that's the plan.

The second is aspic jellies. It seems to be a normal dish among the

commoners, but it's not something that matches the dining table of nobles. Arisa's suggested to make it from colorful ingredients so it looks vivid, and I've unintentionally made its appearance by hand.

Being colorful is one, but there's also another meaning to it--

"Hou, you've splendidly created the crest of our duke's house on the dish."

I'm glad that it seems to be well-received.
However, since it's a family crest, everyone only admires at it, and no one puts their hands on it.

If the gentleman at the prime of his life who was together with lady Ringrande didn't say "Looks delicious", no one would probably have eaten it until the end. I should have thought about the design better.

"Fumu, this is the first time I've tasted this flavor, but it looks like the dish called jelly that has been lost since the era of ancestor king Yamato. It's truly delicious."
"It's true desuwane. This fish thing is delicious, but this red thing is also delicious. ...Kuh, no matter how delicious it is, Sera is off-limit."

This person is really obstinate.

"Hou, he's the man that Rin's mentioned, is he."
"Pleased to meet you for the first time. I'm Satou Pendragon."
"Ooh, the hero-dono of the defensive battle of Muno city is it. Toruma boasted greatly about you. You've also done great in Gururian city I've heard."

This gentleman is the father of lady Ringrande, the next duke.
At any rate, Toruma is the cause huh. Who's a hero. Arisa who's crouching below the table says in low voice, "Toruma is pretty good at lobbying." Looks like she's shrewdly taking the small dishes and enjoying

them.
<TLN: Hero here is written as "Eiyuu", different than the usual hero "Yuusha", which literally means "brave person.">

"Sera is a gentle good child, but she's not suited with the lifestyle of nobles. Moreover, right now she's left the duke house for the temple. If you want to take that child back to the secular life, you have to persuade the Tenion temple's Saintess-sama first."
"The thing about me wooing Sera-sama is a misunderstanding on Ringrande-sama's part--"

I explain myself normally to the next duke, and the misunderstanding is cleared. I wish lady Ringrande follows his example.

"Hou, have you changed your job from a remote hero to a servant?"

The third prince appears wearing young noble-like attires while speaking unpleasantly. Today, he's only bringing the holy knight at the prime of his life along, the battle maniac boy doesn't seem to be here.

There's no need for him to come here deliberately, what a troubling thing to do.

8-11. To the Duke's Castle (2)

*

Satou's here. There are a lot of women who are light eaters, but it's said that that there are even more women who have another stomach for snacks. And then, that doesn't change even in the parallel world.

◇

"Prince, he's the favorite of my father. My father and me are also fans of his cookings."

When I was thinking how to deal with the prince who had come to pick a quarrel, the next duke threw the lifeboat.
It seems that the prince has only seen lady Ringrande and me, he looks surprised when he sees the next duke after he calls out to the prince.

As expected, the opponent is too bad, the prince looks troubled. I can see Arisa's smirking face and eyes behind the table. She's giving a peace sign with her small hand. How nostalgic.

"My, your highness Sharlick, so you're here. Please let us hear about the royal capital over here by all mean."

A woman with a somewhat thick make-up appears after she pushes her way through the crowd and invites the prince.
The prince takes advantage of this, says his farewell noncommittally and goes toward those women.

"Fumu, it'll be good if that man mellows a bit more."
"That's impossible. He hasn't changed in 10 years."

"If we're talking about swordsmanship, he's among the best in Shiga kingdom, but..."
"Father, a person's personality isn't proportional to his strength. If it is, then even Masaki will be, more."

Lady Ringrande was about to complain about the hero, but she put her hand on her mouth and lamented her verbal slip.

"Is the Shiga Eight Swords famous?"
"Are you really a noble of this kingdom?"
"Pardon me, it's because I come from the countryside."

As I'm told, the Eight Shiga Swords are titles given to the eight top swordsmen in the holy knight which is the strongest in the kingdom. The prince seems to be a candidate of being one, but he has been given a permission by the king to wear the kingdom's treasure, the holy sword Claiomh Solais.
By the way, the favorite cane of the ancestor king Yamato is to be used by the top imperial court magician in successive generations. It seems the reason why the king doesn't use the holy sword and the cane himself is because Yamato-san has implemented a system where they can only be used by the right person.

◇

After the next duke, and lady Ringrande leave, the young nobles that have been watching us from a distance gather with great interest, they eat the dishes with great relish.
They ask about my relationship with lady Ringrande, but I honestly tell them that I've just been coached in the way of sword by her.
Even though the amount of food should have been quite a lot, they're completely gone before 30 minutes has elapsed. It seems to be the victory of the appeal of deep fried food, and curious-looking dish.

"Sir Pendragon, can I have your time for a bit?"

Lady Karina came with a man companion.
Although I've said 'man companion', it's not something erotic, he's the little brother of lady Karina, and the eldest son of baron Muno, Orion-kun. He's a 14 years old young man who's studying in the duchy capital. I've been wanting to meet him ever since we arrive in the duchy capital, and I've sent letters many times, but it's always been refused due to various reasons, so this is our first meeting.

"If it isn't, Karina-sama. I presume the one there is the next baron-sama. I am Satou Pendragon. Hereafter, Pleased to make your acquaintance."
"Umu, I'm Orion Muno. Chevalier Satou, please be at ease."

Orion-kun introduces himself while nodding coolly. He might be in the age where he wants to be seen as someone's important with all his might. He only speaks in low voice when he's saying his name, the name given by the hero-loving baron is probably to blame. It's unfortunate.
They go toward the dance hall after we chat for a bit. Just in case, I advise them to be careful of the prince.

Right at that time, the dance party finally begins at the center hall. I don't have any intention of making passes on women since it looks like it'll become rumors in the upper society. After all, the unmarried women are all 13-18 years old, they feel somewhat too young so the fact that I don't feel any urge toward them becomes my reason.

Since the guests who are young women have increased, I decide to announce the third dish.

It's milk crepes, Mia's favorite. I've also added strawberry slices in addition to the fresh cream on the crepe since Arisa's found strawberries in the food storehouse.

"My, it smells good desuwa."
"It'll be done soon, so please wait for a bit."

I interpose the fresh cream and the strawberry in the crepes after it's done. Lulu put the finished crepes on the plate. Grabbing them by hands seem to be NG according to the head chef, so I place small fork and knife on it, and pass it to the young noble woman.

The girl's face is beaming after she bites the crepes once. Her face is full of make-up, but only at that time does it looks innocent and appropriate of her age.
The young noble men who've seen that try to invite the girl for a dance when she's finished eating. Go for it, boys and girls.

"Hey wait, don't show me that old man face."

Arisa said so while eating a small crepe below me.
Isn't it fine, I'm just cheering on them.

I continue frying the ordered crepes from the girls while having no time to reply Arisa.
There was no one who mistook me for an employee, maybe due to the expensive-looking clothes I was wearing. Thanks to that, we introduced each other whenever I took order for the crepe, and I memorized more than 100 girl's names. This was the first time that I began to think I should had used a shorter family name.

◇

The ingredients that I've prepared have all exhausted up, so I ask Lulu and Arisa to bring the pre-made fresh cream and strawberries that are

being cooled in the kitchen here.

"It smells nice, doesn't it."
"I'm sorry, we've used up all the ingredients, so please wait for half an hour for your turn."
"My, it's quite popular, isn't it."

When I look up, there's the head-miko of Tenion temple.
Why?

"It's been a while, Satou-sama."

Lady Sera has come with her. There are two arrogant-looking priests of Parion and Garleon temples behind the head-miko. Both of them are thin men with white hair. There are miko girls who have been kidnapped with Sera beside her.

We're chatting while waiting for Lulu and Arisa to come back, it seems that the other two miko are also blood relatives of the duke. They're from branch families, unlike Sera who's a direct descendant. The two are alike since they're relatives, but I can distinguish them easily due to their different black and brown hairs.
Looks like the girls have come here to congratulate Sera's big brother, Tisrad, for his marriage. Since they want to meet him before the wedding day, it's a good opportunity today.

Lulu and Arisa have returned, so I resume the crepe-making. When the crepes enter miko girls' mouths, just like with the noble girl earlier, the composed faces of the miko changes into delighted faces of normal girls. Sera notices the noble girls who are holding back on ordering the crepes due to the miko girls, and suggests to them to move away for a bit.

The crepe's batter is gone halfway through, so I use Freeze Water on the long and narrow melons that Arisa's brought to make sherbets. I've

practiced doing this with citrus fruits in order to raise my proficiency in adjusting magic power, so the result is quite good even if the fruit used is different. Since Arisa and Mia who have eaten all the failed products got stomachaches before, this time I only make a few before ending it.

◇

"Chevalier-sama, would you be fine to dance with me?"

I wonder if my face looks like it's easy to invite. I've been invited by girls who seem to have just debuted in the upper society since a while ago. I can dance with no problem thanks to Society skill. Incidentally, I got [Dance] skill.
Several of the girls that I was dancing with invited me to drop by their houses. Apparently it's not because I've become popular, Arisa reminds me that it's because they expect me to bring snacks as presents for visiting their houses.

I don't have any misunderstanding okay?

"You're quite popular aren't you, Satou-sama."
"That's not the case at all. I was invited to dance as thanks for the snacks."
"That's not the case at all."

It was Sera that stepped up.
Even though her words contained some pricks when she first called me out, she began to giggle later.

"Would you dance with me as well?"
"Yes, I'd be happy to."

Lady Ringrande would probably become noisy again, but I couldn't decline her invitation.

"Satou-sama is quite skilled."
"Sera-sama is also quite skilled."
"The [Sama] is unnecessary. I am not a noble anymore, so please call me [Sera]."

As expected, calling her by name would be bad. I feel like Lulu's and Arisa's gazes are stabbing me, even though I can't see them from here.

"Sera-sama, miko is also quite deservedly enough to be called with [Sama]."
"Satou-sama looks so kind, yet also unexpectedly mean."

Pochi said that to me too the other day. I should note it.
The dance ends safely even while I'm being bewildered by Sera who's acting uncannily intimate to me. It's been decided for me to help the Tenion temple distributing food during our stay due to Sera who's surprisingly good at negotiating.

"Thank you for the delicious snacks today. Please get along well with Sera, alright."

The head-miko drops a bomb in a low voice while leaving.

"I will keep the matter of that night a secret, so please don't worry. You look cute behind the mask."

Why is it blown.

◇

"Must be because of your voice."

Arisa said so while looking astonished.
Dang, I had neglected getting strange voice skill. Let's practice it tonight. But well, the level and the name are completely different, it's probably going to be fine even if I keep feigning ignorance. The head-miko seemed like she was just baiting me too.

"Thank you for waiting, master, Arisa."

Lulu who had been called by the head-chef returned.
It seems she's been invited to work there. Head-hunting like that, I can't let my guard down toward that old man.

We're allowed to leave as the duke's family has left, but the dance party is still continuing, and we can hear the music from here.

"Young lady, how about a song?"
"Y, yes, I'd be happy to."

I dance together with Lulu among the lights from the mansion. I had been dancing with Arisa before Lulu came, but since it was received better than I had thought, I also invited Lulu.

"Ah, this is like a dream."
"I'm glad to hear that."

Lulu and me together continue to dance round and round forever.

"H, hey wait, how long are you two going to dance, please change with me~."
"Ufufu, oh Arisa, you're cute."

I thought that Lulu would stop when she became tired, but since it didn't, the dance continued until Arisa who was jealous intruded.
The three of us continues dancing together while alternating before the eyes of the maids who occasionally pass through the corridor as if they see something heartwarming.

A day like this is good once in a while.

8-12. Tea Party Days

*

Satou's here. Tea party was frequently drawn in shoujo manga that I read in my childhood, but I had never seen it even once in reality. The modern tea party might be the drink bar in the family restaurant.

◇

The busy days begins the next day after the ball.

While I keep the visits to the workshops as scheduled, I'm also visiting the noble women whom the invitations for tea parties I've accepted.
Of course, I'm not aiming for the the noble girls in their early teens. I wouldn't let Arisa accompany me if that was really the case.

I can sort of feel some petty grudges from that prince, I have a hunch that I'll get involved with him from now on.
Therefore, I'm following Arisa's suggestion to increase my personal connections with the people that are likely to become my allies in preparation for the time when I get entangled in some kind of intricate conspiracy.

I choose not crepes for the tea party, but something that's delicious served cold. I decide to create western style red bean jam rolls by sandwiching fresh cream, coarse and smooth sweet red bean paste with thin pancakes. I announce the bean jam roll to be a new sweets of Muno city. I write the recipe in the letter for baron Muno that I've entrusted to lady Karina. Gelt-san should be able to reproduce what's in the recipe.
I've employed merchants to deliver the ingredients that are hard to obtain in Muno city.

Since it's not good to make the same thing every day, Arisa and I write sweets we remember on the memo, trial-make them, and pick ones that look good. Arisa and the others aren't the only ones who sample the food, the previous earl Walgock couple also ask for it, the food are quite popular. I'm a bit worried that Arisa will become plumper since she eats too much of it.

I've thought of taking lady Karina along to the tea parties, but she's training hard with Liza and the others, I can't approach her. I'm thinking of letting lady Karina get some noble friends, but it doesn't seem like it'll go well.
Lady Karina, Liza and the others are training with the help of a military drill instructor, a woman around her thirties, who has been introduced by Toruma. They're probably getting better training than just sparing randomly with wooden swords. I've also been watching them occasionally. Of course I mean the training, not lady Karina's specific parts.

I had gained some things beyond my expectation doing the tea parties like getting permission to visit the workshops that had refused it before, and some rare ingredients the noble women shared.

The workshops visits have been going smoothly too, the only two remaining are the scroll workshop, and the barrier pillar workshop.
I've got silk threads produced by caterpillars the size of a puppy from the visit to the jade silk workshop yesterday. These silk threads reflect green color from the light just like the name suggest, and cloths weaved from them have the same stab-proof performances as iron chain mails.
When I look at the bait of the caterpillar with AR secretly, it seems there's a secret to it. The caterpillars are mainly feed with leaves, but they're also feed with mithril slag--wastes that comes out of mithril refinery. The green parts of the silk might be composed of mithril. Since there are the same kind of caterpillar species living deep in the forest, it

might be a good idea to try doing it once.

◇

"Eh~, these are some good seats."
"You're right, compared to the crowded seating of the general audience in this arena, the noble guest room is a paradise."

I feel bad for not using the noble guest room that they've reserved for us, so today is the first time we use it. The arena is wider than my expectation, it's probably about as large as the Tokyo Dome. Since it's usually used for horse-racing matches, these much area are probably necessary.
Originally, there are servants attending the noble guest room, but I refuse since I have my own.

"Master, I've acquired the target for sniping. Please the permission."
"You can't."
"Requesting reconsideration."

Nana looks toward one of the player who has just entered the arena.
Ah, he's the white tigerkin man who seems to be the brother of that guy who's kicked the sea lionkin kid. No, this guy only tried cut me, he didn't do anything to the sea lion kid right?
<TLN: White tiger in japanese = byakko.>

His opponent is a magic warrior who's working as an explorer with delicious sounding name, Tan. He's equipped with a mithril sword like me and a small mithril shield that looks like a buckler. There are only elimination battle for the real match, both their levels are high. Tan-shi is level 42, the white tigerkin is level 37. I'm expecting high level fight too.

"Uu~n, I can't see their status from this distance. Tan who can use magic according to the advance review is probably going to win right."
"Arisa, you can't say that. Don't make light of the range and power of that gigantic great sword in addition to byakko-dono's big body. Tigerkin are war race that possesses both power and speed. You cannot decide the match from whether they can use magic or not."

Oh, Liza is being talkative.
The weapon of Byakko-kun is a great sword made from monsters' parts like Liza's. The offensive power is weaker than Liza's spear. I've had this doubt since a while ago, I feel that Liza's spear is too powerful for a weapon made impromptu. Is it because the materials are rare, or the place is rare, it might even be both.

"Satou, aa~n."

One of the snacks that Mia holds with both hand enters my mouth.
This is a thin-stick candy, I guess? Sugar are cheap in this duchy capital, they're in the form of brown sugar. Half of them are Ugi sugar that have been brought from earl Kuhano's city. It seems to be cheap since they cultivate the sugar on the great river's downstream. And yet, the price is not at the level where commoners can get their hands on it.

"What's with this?"
"I've bought it."
"A hawker has come to the noble guest room."

Mia only ever uses her pocket money to buy food and drink huh.
Following her, Lulu, Pochi, and Tama have also bought snacks.

"Octopus skewers~"
"I bought squid skewers too no desu."

The two hold three sticks on both their hands. There are enough for

everyone, they distribute it one for each.

The match is about to begin.

Ah, our eyes met.
The white tigerkin on the arena turns his great sword toward me while glaring. He still remembers huh. Since there doesn't seem to be any demi-human who participates in the real match, please do your best.

There's a 50 meters wide circle drawn on the center of the arena, and the signal to start the match begin when both competitors enter it. There's no limitation in using magic, but since this is an [Armed Battle] after all, it's a foul if you do something like defeating your opponent with magic from afar.

When the two enter the circle, the official sounds the horn to signal the start of the match.

"The white person is attacking nano desu!"
"Mugumugu~."
"Tama-chan, speak after you've finished eating alright."

Pochi commented after she had finished eating while swinging the skewer, Tama said something while her mouth is full, and Lulu scolded her.

"It seems that the human fights after strengthening himself with buff magic."
"Diversion."
"Nnn~, won't he cut it with just a thrust of that great if diversion is poor~."
"Expansion."
"I'm doubtful it can stop that body weight and speed."
"Mwuu."

It looks like Arisa and Mia are giving opinions from the viewpoints of magicians.

Oh, it looks like the magic warrior use physical reinforcement from water magic. The casting has been completed in 3 seconds, but that spell should have taken twice that, it seems that he's arranged the spell to make it shorter than the standard one. The rest is probably thanks to [Chanting Shortening] skill.

"Master, it comes with a BOOM, and hit with a BANG."
"Liza can win~?"
"I don't intend to go down easily, but I don't feel like I can win in a straight fight."

Pochi and Tama are too excited, so Liza are carrying them on both her hands like they're stuffed dolls. The two aren't minding it, and watch the match with sparkling faces. Their tails and arms are flailing too much I'm afraid that it'll break.

"Uu~n, he's amazing, while handling the attacks from that great sword, he hasn't failed in casting spells even once."
"Calm and composed."

The two are observing the magic warrior's way of fighting while chewing on the snacks that Mia's bought. Lulu politely sweeps the scraps that have fallen from the snacks.

"Master, am I able to move like that?"
"You might be able to if you can use physical reinforcement well, I think. Even Karina-sama has done movements similar to that right?"
"Tama can do it~."
"Pochi will do her best nodesu!"

As for the fight, at a glimpse, byakko-san seems to have the upper hand, but his attacks have all been blocked. The magic warrior has been doing a defensive battle, but he's steadily increasing his buffs. He just has to use Stick Mist next to slow the byakko's movement down, and the match will probably be decided.

It's developing just as I've expected, and the match end with the magic warrior's victory. However, he slowed down the byakko's movement not by water magic, but by using lightning magic to [Enchant] his weapon and paralyzed him with one blow.

Three more matches were held afterwards, but since they were plain matches between two warriors, Mia and Arisa quickly dozed off. It seemed to be favorites of experts, bold cheering could be heard from the elderly on the audience seats.

"Was that a Hakama? That equipment is splendid isn't it. I didn't think that it could conceal footworks to that degree."

Liza eagerly praised the beautiful woman in Japanese clothing that had appeared just now.
Pochi and Tama who have been dropped to the ground are trying to mimic the haorihakama warrior, but they're not doing so well. The haorihakama person has black eyes and hair, but she's not particularly a Japanese it seems.
I take off my shoes to demonstrate the footwork. I know it from a manga that I've read back then, so I don't have any confidence if it's right.

"Like a slug~?"
"It's slimy and closing in nodesu! I'm the slug degozaru~."
<TLN: Pochi uses "Sessha" to refer herself here.>

When Pochi can't do the footwork well, she sprawls on the floor, and moves like an inchworm. I wonder if it's right to retort, "That's not a slug." here?

"Pochi-chan, who's the bad girl who lies on the ground after wearing her best clothes with much effort!"
"A, au, it's not like that nodesu. Lulu, it's not like that nodesu."
"What's not like that? When you do bad things?"
"I'm sorry nano desu."
"Pochi, repent~."

Oops, it was the time to scold her huh. Pochi is doing a pose of remorse and apologizes.
Tama shrewdly take this chance to turn around Lulu who's angry. Wasn't she squatting just now? When our views meet, Tama takes the [Remorse] pose like Pochi in a panic.

◇

"Master, the airship is producing a young organism. Arisa, urgently, create a cushion in the shape of that!"
"Eh~, again~. I'm already tired~, I'll teach you how to do it, so make it yourself okay."
"That's an excellent plan. Arisa, I implore you for the instructions."

Nana was pointing at a small airship that were anchored. It's an express ship that's come from the royal capital. The one riding it is the king--not, it's the king's shadow. The two ministers that have come together with him are the real ones.

I have a hunch that the wagon will be full of stuffed dolls when Nana has learned sewing.
I'm making leather armors and boots from the armored newt's leather and green silk beside Arisa who's teaching Nana how to sew. I'm thinking of copying the magic warrior's armor that's made from monsters'

materials, and with shock and stab resistances better than normal iron armor. I got the [Sewing Skill] from making linings with the green silk. Let's maximize the skill and create inners for everyone.

Come to think of it, I've gotten a hold of a cloth called Yuriha fiber from the thieves' hideout. I'll process this and make robes for Arisa and Mia. Evening of that day, I work at night to create equipment for everyone, and new shoes for Pochi and the others.

It feels like I've become the fairy from fairytale.

8-13. The Viscount and the Scroll Workshop

*

Satou's here. Sometimes I miss my students day where I get my speed and capacity cut down during programming using integrated development environment because I'm doing it while reading mnemonic binary conversion list.
I don't want to go back to that time though. Technology must progress after all.

◇

Hooked nose, wrinkled brow, well-cared mustache, and properly swept-back deep blond hair. I can feel strong will from his eyes overflowing with vigor.

Is he really the brother of Toruma?

I can see Toruma's father standing beside him. He looks somewhat old, you wouldn't think that he's still 34 years old.

"Thank you for saving Toruma."

It's weird. Even though I'm being thanked, it feels like being scolded by my boss.
That was Toruma's brother, viscount Hosaris Shimen.

"I'm sorry, Satou-dono, my brother can only talk like this."
"How rude. Toruma, what's wrong with the way I talk."

His words itself are normal, but the way Hosaris talks feels like a

stubborn master who's scolding his poor pupils. In fact, I can feel Arisa radiating drooling-like presence. I can't help but feel that she's leaking gleaming aura that's unusual.

My biggest concern, that is the permission to visit the workshop, is given without problem.
I'm also alloted to the the first in line, though maximum priority is impossible, for the promised matter about scrolls as compensation for Toruma's dagger.

"Is that so, you've got into troubles with his highness Sharlick, sir Pendragon, you have to be careful. His highness tends to easily settle disputes with violence."

According to Hosaris-shi, the prince is also regarded as a troublemaker in the royal capital. About 10 years ago, he laid his hands on the daughter of a lord who had been decided to marry (someone else), in no time at all, one earl territory was on the verge of rebelling against Shiga kingdom. This matter was also the reason for the cancellation of the engagement between lady Ringrande and the prince.
Originally he should have been confined in a remote monastery, or rather a royal villa away under the pretense of recuperating from sickness, but he could be forgiven if he succeed as a holy knight due to his excellent swordsmanship. The bad rumor didn't die out even after he had become a holy knight, but it seemed that he hadn't caused any big problem like he did with the territory lord before.

How could they gave that kind of human a holy sword.

◇

"So then, the ink made from the dew on the fireflies lily~"

"We certainly will be able to operate the bestowal stand with precision using that ink, but how much do you think it is."
"But aren't Dragon Scales and Drill Powder that Jung-san's mentioned impossible to get~"

I can hear people's voices beyond the open door on the hallway.
They're probably the scroll craftsmen whom Hosaris-shi has called.

"Master, welcome back."
"Hosaris-sama, welcome back!"

An obese middle-aged man to the point of overweight, and a freckled bespectacled little girl with short ash blond hair welcomed us in the room. The woman who's a gnome isn't beautiful by any measures, but she can't be called ugly either.

"The one here is Jung, the workshop manager. Despite his looks, he's the expert of scroll-making in Shiga kingdom. The girl over there is Natalina. When it comes to creativity, she's the best in the workshop. They will meet sir Pendragon's expectation without fail."

Creative, in other words, she produces strange scrolls that won't sell, and use money like they're growing on trees for the sake of inventions. She's certainly suited for my purpose.

After introducing the two, Hosaris-shi leaves the room followed by Toruma. He's entered the room just to greet them, so there is no problem.

◇

I show list of scrolls that I want to Jung-san for him to confirm their feasibilities, but the ones that contain advanced level magic aren't

possible after all.
Moreover, they won't accept magic that are used by criminals, and spy like [Fake Patch], and [Unlock].

The crime related things are no good even though the battle related ones are okay huh.

And yet, [Through Eyes], and [Mana String] that can be used to open lock depending on its usage are alright.

In order to create a particular scroll, the person who finishes the scroll has to be able to use that particular magic skill, so [Gravity], [Shadow], [Mind], and [Ghost] magic are impossible.
'Then, you can make [Space] magic?' is my expectation, but it seems the they can only make [Space], and [Destruction] scrolls at only elementary level.
As for holy magic scrolls, they can't be made mainly due to religious reason. It's technically possible huh.

"Hey, chevalier-sama. I understand that you're a collector, but even if you use the magic in this list, none of them will produce any good result you know? Is it really okay?"
"Natalina, use polite speech a bit better."
"Eh~ I'm using it properly right? Chevalier-sama."
"They're a bit broken, but I'm an upstart myself, so if it's difficult for you to use polite speech, it's alright to use normal speech."

When she hears that, Natalina-san says, "You sure? Yay." while banzai-ing, and Jung-san knocks her head.
I promise that I won't complain even if the effects of the spells line-up in the list turn out weak. They have half of the spells in stock, so half of the request are complete.

"These are some strange spells aren't these? They're easy but it's awfully

inefficient. I don't think they're at elementary levels, but it'll be hard to use them due to the long chants."

The spells in this world are like [Spaghetti Source] seen in programming. They're like assemblers in the era where there are only powerless CPU long ago, interwoven like puzzles. That's why it was extremely hard to analyze them, to the point that I was suspicious that it was deliberately obfuscated.
Therefore, when I was making my own spell, I modularized the spells into functions in accordance to the paradigm of structured programming. As the result, the spells had became extremely readable, but it also introduced disadvantages; the chanting became longer, and increased MP consumption. The traditional spells have probably been optimized after going through long years.

"You can't make them into scrolls?"
"Ah, that thing is alright. They're a bit strange, but it doesn't seem like they're deviated from nature magic, so it feels like I can somehow do it."

Natalia-san used poor polite speech until the end, probably because Jung-san was glaring at her.

"Then Chevalier-sama. Since it'll need some times to prepare the stocks, would you like to look at the workshop in the meantime?"
"Yes, by all means."

I take Arisa along to visit the workshop. The workshop is in the basement of the viscount's mansion site, there are many guards who are on the lookout vigilantly. All the guards are higher than level 20, and they have skills that are composed for spy prevention like [Sharp Eyes], and [Surveillance].

The workshops are divided into numerous small rooms for handling specific processes. Therefore, there are only a few people who knows the

entire process. It looks inefficient, but since it's important to hide the technology, it's quite thorough.

It seems that the scroll's papers are made in another place, their appraisal results describe them as [Scroll Blank Sheet, Second]. From the two's conversation, I understand that the ink needs fine powder made from magic cores. The reason why the viscount went to the royal capital was to purchase magic cores with high purities. Looks like you'll need magic cores from level 30 or higher monsters to create intermediate level scrolls. When they show me the cores for the manufacturing, the red tinges on it looks a bit deeper in color compared to the cores from armored newt back then.

"We make inks in this room."

Jung-san slightly opens the door to show the inside, looks like they can't let me enter. They're making [Ink for Scroll, Shell] here. I understand the materials in general, but one of them is [Ink for Scroll, Second]. This is quite tough.

Even though it's called making scroll, they need more than just writing the spells in the exclusive paper, many processes are required. For that reason, I have to wait 2-4 days for the readily-made ones, and add 1-2 days in the case of order-made ones.

The spells that are in stocks are as follow:

Nature Magic: Flexible Shield (Intermediate)
Nature Magic: Flexible Armor (Intermediate)
Nature Magic: Through Eyes (Intermediate)
Nature Magic: Mana Transfer (Intermediate)
Nature Magic: Mana Drain (Intermediate)
Nature Magic: Break Magic (Intermediate)
Nature Magic: Magic Hand (Intermediate)

Nature Magic: Magic String
Earth Magic: Polish
Earth Magic: Mould
Water Magic: Remove Poison (Intermediate)
Water Magic: Aqua Heal (Intermediate)
Water Magic: Water Heal
Wind Magic: Canopy

They're mostly sample products without recipient. It seems the oldest one is from over 100 years ago.

They're one gold coins for three elementary level scrolls, and two gold coins for one intermediate level ones. The original ones were going to cost me three gold coins, but since I permitted them to copy the spell, it became one gold coin instead.
These kinds of negotiations are Arisa's forte, but when I considered that she would firmly demand sexual harassment as her rewards, I thought that it'd be better if I just paid them more.

Even though there are plain magic like [Polish], and [Mould], among the stocks, I'm happy. With this, I won't need to create sand mould or wood model for casting.

I was looking for multiple small shield magic that Raka used during the fight against the demon in Gururian city--I was taught that it's called [Multi Mana Scale]--in the stocks, but I couldn't find it.
I consulted to them if they could make it, but since it seemed to be an advance level nature magic, it was not possible. It's unfortunate.
They told me the anecdote that it was originally developed to reproduce the multi small shields the wild boar king used in nature magic, but I couldn't say to them that it needed more work as compared to the real thing that I had seen. Or maybe, it could be equal if the skill level is high?

The order-made ones are as follows:

Nature Magic: Light Stun (Original)
Nature Magic: Remote Stun (Original)
Nature Magic: Sound Record (Original)
Nature Magic: Photo (Original)
Nature Magic: Magick Sword (Original)
Water Magic: Liquid Control (Original)
Wind Magic: Air Control (Original)
Lighting Magic: Electronic Control (Original)
Fire Magic: Fireworks (Original)
Light Magic: Fireworks Illusion (Original)

Space Magic: Clairvoyance
Space Magic: Clairhearing
Space Magic: Telephone

Life Magic: Soft Wash
Life Magic: Dry
Life Magic: Bandage

I've limited the power of stun type magic for inter-personal matters. The recording and photography are for recording and taking photo during the sightseeing. The control type ones are for when I'm making magic tools. The other ones than these are too plain and minor that they don't usually make them in scrolls.

The through eyes is not for making clothes look to be transparent. I'd have thought so if I was in my teens, but its use is for observing the states of things during creation of magic swords.

Magick Sword is a magic that produces a transparent straight swords. The idea came to me after I saw the painting of Yamato-san in the museum. Transparent swords are truly fantasy-like.

In reality, magick sword was supposed to be an intermediate magic, but it seemed that it had touched Natalia-san's heartstring, it was treated like the other original magic.

In the end, the matter about scrolls that were slightly over my budget at hand was balanced out.

When the workshop tour is over, Jung-san tells me about the expected date for the completion of the scrolls. Since the person who can use space magic just happens to be present, the [Clairvoyance], [Clairhearing], and [Telephone] can be done in three days, while [Air Control] will be done in five days. The other magic are after those. The people who can use life magic are particularly in vacation for the tournament, so the work will start after the tournament has ended.

When we were going home, it was hard to take away Nana who had remained with Mayuna-chan.

8-14. The Night before the Final

*

Satou's here. Back then, I imagined that auction was like a place where the wealthy were dealing with work of arts and jewelries with outrageous prices. My child's mind thought that work of arts should have been better put in the museum.
Nowadays, net auction is what comes to my mind (if I hear the word), Satou's.

◇

"Did something good happen? Satou-san."

Today I've come to help distributing food. After helping with the distribution for several times, lady Sera has changed her honorific calling for me from [Sama] to [San]. She's calling me like Zena-san is, but I feel shy when she does it. Mia will kick me if I'm acting shy, so I reply calmly.

"Yes, some difficult works have been going well."

Thanks to the many scrolls I've acquired from viscount Shimen's mansion recently, I'm able to nicely make magic swords with casting. That said, it's only at the level of the wooden holy sword I've made back then, so it's nothing but a first step. I can't see the prospect for the forging process.

In the book [30 Standard Circuits for Magic Tools] that I've bought back then, there are various circuits that look usable for making magic swords, so I'm going to attempt them one by one. There is also this interesting circuit for making airship, but seems that it needs materials from a

monster that flies in the sky called Air Fish. They normally fly around over the open sea, so obtaining the materials is difficult.

"Master, some children who misses the food distribution have come, can we do something about them?"
"There were a lot of adults today after all~"

Lulu and Arisa have brought along two dogkin children like Pochi, and three ratkin children. Their ages are about 4-8 years old. Pochi is about to distribute some baked sweets that she's taken from her pocket. Since Lulu has educated her many times, the baked sweets aren't put directly in her pocket, but properly wrapped in a handkerchief.

"Hehen, thanks for it~"
"Bye~ now~ dog girl~"

Apekin children quickly snatched the baked sweets from Pochi's hand and ran toward the alleyway.
Due to the sudden turn of event, Pochi blinks for a while, and then yells "Wait nodesu! Stealing is bad, nano desu~" while running after the culprits.

"Liza, Tama, please."
"Yes!""Roger~"

I ask the two, and they run after Pochi. It'd be bad if she became a lost child.
I ask Nana to take the five hungry children to the stalls nearby and get them something to eat. I remind Nana not to give them something that's too expensive. Nana has a soft spot on [Young Organisms] after all. Well, Arisa is following them, so it's probably alright.

Soon, Pochi and Tama carry the apekin children while holding them overhead. They're tied with rope from somewhere.

"Master, I've caught the culprits nodesu."
"Sinners, to the gallows~"
"What should we do? They'll be dealt accordingly if we hand them over to the authority."

Liza, did you use [Dealt], not [Judged], just now?
I'm too scared to ask her.
<TLN: They both sounds the same, but written differently.>

The two little thieves are saying, "Sorry", "Won't do it again", but they probably don't really regret it. They'll either end up being slaves or beheaded if we turn them over to the authority. Even in the duchy capital, demi-humans criminals are given harsh punishment.
Let's leave making a mess of someone's life just because of baked sweets to that french-bread like person. I forgive them by only flicking their foreheads gently.
The children are holding their foreheads while rolling on the groudn, such exaggerated acting... or it should have been. Pochi and Tama hold their foreheads while looking like it's really painful. Strangely, even Arisa and Mia hold their foreheads.

I tell Liza to untie them, and have them help cleaning-up after the food distribution. The apekin children are helping with the work while calling Pochi, "Ane-san". They don't seem to have learned their lessons, they try to take the baked sweets from Pochi pocket, and get found out by Tama who then obstruct them. Pochi who's angry downs them with her fist, and they roll on the floor like before. Judging from the decrease of their HP, Pochi seems to have properly held back.

"Hey, Onee-chan miko."

Miko? Miko huh.

"What's the matter?"

"The adults are saying something like the demon lord will be revived."
"The end of an era. Everyone is going to die, they says."
"Will everyone die?"

Not only demi-humans children, human children are also encircling Sera with worried faces.
This was a topic that had come out during tea parties too, typical of the demon lord season to be the end of an era, looked like pessimistic views, and downfall were popular to discuss about. In addition it seems that the vibrations from my experiments with Arisa late at night had reached the ground above, and it became a rumor that it might be an omen for the demon lord revival. For that reason, the next day after that, I dug deep for two hours until a very deep layer to do the experiment there.

"It's alright, it won't happen, the hero will surely eliminate the demon lord."
"Nn."
"It's okay~"
"Master will beat down something like demon lord, like ZUBABAN, nodesu."
"Master, you have a serious responsibility aren't you."

Pochi and Tama hug my waist while looking up with sparkling eyes. Lulu says so happily, but she must not have seriously thought so. Only Arisa who knows the truth looks like she has mixed feelings. It's said that ignorance is bliss.

◇

"Good evening, head miko-sama."
"Ara, Nanashi-san. You're elusive like always."

She looks her age when I see her in the duke's castle back then, but for some reason, she looks young in this room.

"I've come here today to ask about the oracle regarding demon lord."
"Ara? You've annihilated it right? The oracle from Tenion-sama has told us that it's『Annihilated』."
"It must have been defeated by a passing hero."
"Ufufu, let's leave it like that."

She laughs lightly you wouldn't think it comes from an old woman.
Oops, rather than that, I should confirm it.

"There are rumors among people on the streets that the demon lord is hiding itself in the underground of the duchy capital. Did the temple not announce that the demon lord have been annihilated?"
"I've told his excellency the duke directly, but the『Annihilated』oracle haven't come to the other temples, so we can't announce that the demon lord has been annihilated from Tenion temple alone."

Don't tell me, there are other demon lords out there?
I'd hate it if there's something like the great demon lord.

I return the resurrection artifact that has been filled with magic during our conversations to the head miko. I put back the holy sword that has acted as a battery replacement into the item box.

"Thank you, Nanashi-san. I prefer that there won't be a situation where this is needed."
"I'd love that."

When I'm about to leave, I'm given something by head miko-san.

Indulgence.

It's not the same thing as the one for collecting money in the previous world, it's an item that lets you erase one crime that has been etched in the Reward and Punishment. It's not clear what the head-miko intends to do by giving it to me, but since it looks useful, I quietly accept it.

◇

I put on one of the wig that I've got on the downtown, and walk into the night town in Nanashi-style. There are many gentlemen who are walking around in the red district dressed with thin hooded overcoats, so I'm unexpectedly inconspicuous.

My expenditures have increased ever since I've become a noble, so I'm visiting the dark auction that's secretly open during the martial art tournament. It requires a written invitation to enter, but since a lot of nobles who have been sacrificed for the demon lord carry it, I have it in my storage without doing anything.

Since you can employ agents, I decide to dispatch one. The commission fee is one silver coin for each displayed item that has to be paid even if they don't sell. The agent will take 10% charges if the item is sold at higher price than the minimum fee. Since I'm told that items that don't have appraisal's report won't sell well, I have the official appraisal in the auction hall to issue them. There are 10 official appraisals, and even though they all have dark circles under their eyes, they all smile amazingly. It's probably the best season literally. I unintentionally give the person a stamina recovery potion.

I'm going to exhibit medicines and weapons.

The medicine is magic potions with Nanashi sign that increase vitality and partly health.

I realized that they would sell well from the conversations of the family heads old men during the tea parties. It's no different in any world. The raw materials are from armor newt, so I can make them as many as I like, and the market price is also quite expensive. It'll be troublesome if the person who takes the medicine die during the intercourse, so I've lowered the quality to some extent.
I had brought 10 sets with five items per set I made, but they sold at higher price than I expected. I guess I should try making hair regrow and breast enlarger medicine next time.

The weapons are mock magic weapon made from monster's materials, and the result of trial-runs from the magic swords casting. I've got the title [Blacksmith of Magic Swords] when I'm casting the magic sword.

As for the weapons from monster's materials, spears, swords, and bows were selling well among the people who looked like explorers or guards. People who look like nobles were buying the casted magic swords. That person who's buying it looks a bit familiar. I confirm with AR, he's the military accountant of the duke. The knight who looks like an escort generates magic edge when he pours mana into it. He seems to be quite a user.

He's generously paying 100 gold coins for each, but is he fine spending that much? I'm worried even though it's someone else problem. They're casted from weapons I've got from the thieves' hideout and then melted, the magic liquids are also of common quality, so each of them costs almost zero to produce. Even if the materials are bought, it probably only costs two gold coins at most. The rip-off is only the best part.

The military accountant approaches the agent, and asks if he can provide another 10. Since I can make 10 of it even if I just have one hour, I accept it. The next auction will be held in about three days, so I promise to bring it in the final day.

I get 780 gold coins in total.
It's the sum after the agent's fee of course. The biggest earner is the five casted magic swords that have been sold for 570 gold coins. There are money to be made everywhere indeed.

Since I've made more money than I've planned, I also bid in the dark auction to also reduce the market. Mixed among magic tools, they're exhibiting things like, fallen young noble women, illegal medicines, or medicine to level up. Since the AR tells that the level-up medicine is [EXP +1000], it's meaningless for me. I've bid a drop item from the labyrinth city for 70 gold coins. The price is lower than I've thought, but looks like it's extraordinary even for a disposable item.

It seems that I also have to use the agent for buying things, so I request one. Several magic books and three scrolls. They're things that only appear in dark auction, it greatly smells of crime.

Nature Magic: Fake Patch
Nature Magic: Unlock
Nature Magic: Lock

They're scrolls that have been refused in viscount Shimen's scroll workshop.

The last day is going to exhibit the featured products like, [Princess of the Fallen Kingdom], [Monograph of Ancient Language], and [Air Force Engine of Airship]. Princess of the Fallen Kingdom, she can't possibly Arisa's and Lulu's sister right?

◇

After I've recharged myself in the pleasure quarter, I mass produce magic

swords in the usual open space at the interior part of the underground labyrinth. Since I got tired along the way, I also made many spear and halberd type ones. The production cost of halberd is high, but it's also the most expensive in the dark auction, so I make them. There was a circuit for changing mana into electricity written in the standard magic circuit book, so I added it to the halberd afterward. It seem that the users can get electrified if they put wrong amount of mana into it, so I've also added a protection circuit on it.

>Title [Blacksmith of Magic Weapons]

Even though I've used Deodorant to erase the trace, they still find out that I've gone to the pleasure quarter. Women's intuitions are sharp even though they're small.

It seems that the king will also attend the tournament's final tomorrow. Moreover, lady Ringrande and the prince are going to do an exhibition match before the final. If a disturbance is going to happen, it's either during that match or the wedding.

The prince and his cohorts don't seem to be in contact with the [Wings of Liberty]. It seems the earl's mansion from before has been discovered, the members' number have been halved. The people who have escaped from the hardships are hiding in the sewer.
Since it looks like they'll be decapitated if they're captured, they have no choice but to enter it and can't come out. If possible I want them to make it into their dwellings and live their remaining life quietly please.

8-15. The Day of the Final

*

Satou's here. There's this famous quote from Shakespeare, "To be, or not to be", but I thought that it was a quote from some battle manga character until after I had entered high school, such was my dark past. Everyone has ever misunderstood something right.

◇

Today Tama has been acting strange since the morning.

Just when I thought that she's walking randomly in the room, she quarrels with Pochi, then Arisa, or rather, she clings to them and rolls on the floor.

"What's wrong? Tama."
"Nn~? Something is itching~"
"Pun pun nanodesu! Today's Tama is strange nodesu."
<TLN: "Pun pun" is an onomatopoeia, kind of like hmph, but cuter.>

Oh? Pochi looks unusually touchy too.
Tama thrusts herself on my lap which has Mia sitting on it as if she's pushing her, and then she's snuggling on my lap. I wonder what's wrong? It's rare for her to cut in by force.

"Chevalier-sama, are you not going to watch the final match today?"
"Yes, I've been asked to make the feast for the celebration of the final, so I'm going to go to the castle after a bit."

I hear that several nobles have asked the duke's butler. Only upper nobles are allowed to participate in the balls and banquets that the king will

attend for the next several days, I can't participate on them. As expected they can't say that I have to cook on the balls and banquets I won't participate in.
In that regards, the celebration today isn't only attended by the winner and nobles, but also the martial artists who have participated in the main matches, and influential people of the duchy capital, so I've been asked to make several dishes like on the ball before.

Since the king seems to be attending the final today, lady Karina and her brother are also going to attend.

It looks like Tama has calmed down after I gently brush her back, she's sleeping with difficult face.

Right at that time, the duchy capital shocks.

◇

It was not an earthquake.
It was like an active sonar from a submarine, a signal from search magic was passing through once.
However, the power was not ordinary.

"What was that? Just now?
"Signal?"
"Some kind of bell sound has come nodesu!"
"Master, ready for battle."

Not only me, it seems that half of the members have perceived the signal earlier.
The reason why Tama has become emotionally unstable is probably because she's sensed the antecedent.

Liza has started equipping the new equipments I've given her the other day. Slightly later, Pochi and Nana have also began to change. My eyes are happy, but I can't keep watching it, so I ask Lulu to put a partitioning screen before Nana.

"Tama, change your clothes too."
"Aye~"

According to the map, demons have appeared. They're in the sky above the arena.
The arena is populated with 20 people who are higher than level 40, in addition to lady Ringrande, the prince and his companions. The demons have picked the wrong time. They probably would be eliminated before I could intervene.

"What's happened?"
"It's the demon again."
"Eh~, again~"

Really, I wish they learn some self-restraint soon.

Arisa and the others are also changing to the new equipments I've created the other day. It's thinner than Liza's, but they're all matching white leather. I've replaced everyone's weapon except Liza's with casted magic swords. They look quite different from the ones I've sold on the auction before, and the inscriptions are carved with 'Satou Pendragon'.

Looks like the demons can use [Summoning Magic], [Mind Magic], and [Fire Magic]. They likely will summon various things if they're given time, so let's dispose of them quickly.

After a bit of time has elapsed after everyone's began changing, the sound of duchy capital's alarm, the town bell, begins resounding.

◇

The nobles' houses on the duchy capital have underground shelters in preparation of demons' attack. These shelters are built abnormally strong for the sake of the nobles' own safeties. The ones that are in the upper noble house have the same strength as the outer wall even.
A bit later after the alarm have rung, a maid of this mansion comes to lead us to the shelter.

"Arisa."
"Hoi, hoi~"
"Please take refuge to the underground shelter with everyone. I'll send you a signal if it gets truly dangerous, I want you to immediately teleport to the underground labyrinth with everyone if that happens."
"Aye aye."

I guess this is alright for the anti-demons measure.
I'm asking Liza and the others to deal with another troublesome thing.

"Liza."
"Yes!"
"The carriage of lady Sera is being chased by villains. Go with Mia and Nana by horses to protect her."
"I understand."
"I understand, master."
"Nn."

It seems that all members of the wings of liberty are trying to kidnap lady Sera.
I can go help her directly, but it'll be troublesome if some strange flag gets raised, so I'll leave it to Liza and the others. They should be able to

handle it with their strengths. Since lady Sera seems to be escaping toward this mansion, I teach the general route to Liza and the others.

◇

I go together until the duke's castle, refuse to enter the shelter, and go out.
I change into Nanashi, silver masked hero version, and go toward the arena.

For the time being, I activate the new magic [Clairhearing], and [Whisper Wind] to grasp the situation. The focus is the arena where I'm going.

"'Demon, no demon lord, your fate is over now.'"

This voice, it's the prince. It is a level 71 demon, but it's not the demon lord you know?

It's chaotic there, but precisely because it's the final of the martial arts tournament, a lot of domestically influential and powerful people are there, so they haven't been overran it seems.

"'Brave warriors, let's cooperate together to subjugate the monsters. Magician, prioritize supporting the warriors with reinforcement magic over attack magic.'"

This voice is lady Ringrande's.
I guess the demons have summoned monsters as their soldiers, people beside the prince are fighting them. Among the monsters that have been summoned, there are more than 10 with upper level 40. Looks like explorers, knights, and martial artists are cooperating together to fight the high level monsters. The clamor that I can hear is very lively. They

probably really like the fighting.

"'Barrier, put up the barrier defense.'"
"'It's no good, the escape passages are collapsed, we have to secure the way out.'"

I thought that it's strange the nobles aren't escaping even though the king body-double is going, so it's because of that. Clairhearing and Whisper Wind are convenient.
I guess the passages for general audiences are fine, people are rushing out from there. There doesn't seem to be anyone who dies from getting trampled. Since most of them seem to be hot-headed people, the worry is needless.

Using Sky Drive and Ground Shrink, I go to the top of one of the spire near the arena, and stand there.
There demon has two heads, yellow skin, and two water buffalo-like horns on its shoulders. Since it has two heads, I wonder if that means it can use magic simultaneously like the golden wild boar-head king.

I want to tell "Read the air" to lady Ringrande and the other skirmishing people, but since there are people I know in the arena, let's quickly clean this up.
First, I guess I'll defeat that important looking upper demon with [Laser] of light magic.

As if waiting for the decision, the space is cracking and a ship is appearing.

While producing ripple of lights as if coming out of water surface, a silver streamlined ship that looks like a space ship appears.
A man wearing blue armor--the hero, Hayato Masaki, is standing on the bow. I'm told that he was level 61 when Arisa met him, but he's level 69 now.

"'The great me, has arrived!'"

I wonder if that words are laden with provocation skill, the flying monsters are heading toward the hero.

"'Hou, hero Hayato, are you prepared to die by appearing in front of us?'"
"'Don't think that I'm always going to be the old me! I'll have my revenge today!'"

I can end it in an instant with [Laser] now. But it's hard to shoot it.

"'Fall back you dog of Saga empire! I'll prove that hero is not the monopoly of Saga empire.'"

It's the prince. You should've leave it to him.

"'<<DANCE>> Claiomh Solais'"

The <<DANCE>> earlier seems to be some kind of password. Claiomh Solais leaves the prince's hand while shedding blue light, and assails the yellow-skinned demon. Oh~ the picture that I saw in the museum back then doesn't seem to be an exaggerated lie.

Ah, it's repelled.
Claiomh Solais sure is weak.

"'The holy sword will cry, prince. That demon is the chief executive of the great demon lord of old--golden wild boar-head king. The highest class demon who has survived for several hundred years. You should withdraw if you don't want to die. <<SING>> Arondight.'"

After receiving the password from the hero, Arondight that he's holding is furiously shedding holy light.

I wonder if there are passwords like that for the holy swords I have? I've become able to read explanations of magic tools thanks to the book of magic tools, but it only has magic tools from the present day written in it, so I'm still not able to read the holy swords'. If it's just passwords, I probably can decipher it, let's check it out when I get some free time.

The hero's companions who have appeared from the ship put reinforcement magic to the hero. Out of curiosity, I use [Clairvoyance] magic, but I shouldn't have done it.

A priest-like beautiful woman of loose fluffy-type kyonyuu casts reinforcement magic. The mole under her eye looks good.
An archer-like long ears-kin woman is intercepting monsters approaching the hero. One arrow splits into 10 along the way and swoop down the monsters. Judging from the red light that it had let out, it was probably a magic arrow.

The monsters that have escaped the archer's attacks lands on the ship, but they got quickly eliminated by a light warrior, and a twin-sword warrior. Those girls also of ears-kin. A tiger ears-kin, and a wolf ears-kin. The tiger ears has ponytail, and the wolf-ears has short hair, they're both beautiful women with well-shaped breasts.

The last one is a beautiful woman with enormous breasts and luxurious blond hair holding a long cane. She seems to be comparable to lady Karina. She's doing something drawn-out, and begins chanting a spell.

In short, the followers are all glamorous beautiful women.

Riajuu, go explode.

What should I do.
Should I clean this up while being like Toruma by not reading the mood.

To shoot, or not to shoot, that is the question.

8-16. The Day of the Final (2)

*

Good grief, what a farce.

Even if the king is attending, why do I absolutely have to do a mock battle with the prince?
Moreover, the prince is using the holy sword, Claiomh Solais. It's a sword that embodies the [Invincible] Shiga kingdom.
<TLN: Remember, the one who was supposed to do the mock battle with the prince is Ringrande.>

There's no way I can win.

The person who holds the holy sword Claiomh Solais must never lose.
That is because doing so means suggesting that the invincible Shiga kingdom is defeated.
Losing is not permitted even if it's just a fantasy.

Although, even if I don't deliberately try to lose, the prince should be slightly stronger than me if we exclude magic.
I can't win unless I use my trump card. If I use it, I would undoubtedly kill the prince. As expected, that's bad.

Aah, this is depressing.

◇

I can hear people from the audience seat cheering my name. There are also cheering for the prince, but isn't it because of the [Prince] title I wonder.

I'm wearing the magic armor Chaftar that I've got when I became the

hero's follower, while shouldering the lightning great sword I've got from when I was a labyrinth explorer. The armor grants the same effect as physical reinforcement magic to the person who's wearing it. I can produce mana shield and magic for blocking sniping if I put mana into the magic circuit.

I enter the circle for the match.

Right when the match starts, I invoke the mana shield. Following that, I put mana into the lightning great sword, and activate the lightning edge.

I feel a bad premonition before I can add up physical reinforcement magic, I jump to the side.

A firebolt goes through where I was.

Firebolt Wand?

<TLN: I've just found out that the author uses "Wand" instead of "Cane" to translate 杖 , so I'm going to use that from now on. Might revisit older chapters to correct it but it'll be a PITA...>

That's not a military weapon.
It's not something that you should use without chanting you know?

"Nostalgic right? This is the thing you've made in the school after all."

The prince attacks while drawing blue trails with the holy sword.
What speed.

The legend that states the holy sword (Claiom Solais) user flies in the sky might be true.

I ward the holy sword away with my great sword.
Heavy. My wrist is really hurt.

The lightning clad on the great sword transmitted to the holy sword, and

got uneventfully scattered away in the air.
Even though he would have fainted or paralyzed if he had used a normal sword.

Returning the favor, I swing the great sword to the prince's legs.
He invokes the defense film (Barrier) of the holy knight armor and block the great sword.

As expected of the equipment of the kingdom's strongest, the holy knight.

This time I'll entrust my armor to block the prince's sword, and focus my attention to attacking.

Executing Heavy Blow skill. The aim and accuracy are lower, but right now, I need might.

Executing Magic Edge skill. I don't usually use it since it's a waste of mana, but there's no meaning in preserving mana right now.

The great sword is tinged with red light.

Executing Sharp Edge skill. I don't want to kill the prince, but if I don't fight with the intention to kill, I won't be able to penetrate that armor's defense.

"Furious Whirlwind Blade"
<TLN:Senpuretsuha>

I shout the technique's name even though there's is no need to do that.
Looks like I've been infected with Hayato's foolishness.

I was sure that it'd be blocked, but it easily breaks the armor's barrier.
This is bad, he'll surely die if I don't stop.

I managed to stop the blade before the prince received a fatal hit.

However, the prince doesn't miss my unstable posture.

I was splatted to the arena's ground like a ball.

◇

Cheering, screams, and jeers.

It seems I've lost my consciousness for an instant.
The prince shoots pursuing firebolts rapidly. Are you trying to kill me?

It appears that his swelled pride is hurt because I stopped the sword earlier. The prince's eyes have scarily turned bloodshot.

I chant Quick Burst to destroy the firebolts.

However, our fight ends here.

Summoning circles are formed in the sky.

Thatisdangerous.

My intuition tells me the danger as if my head is split.
I begin to chant Break Magic magic. Not good, the prince hasn't realized the summoning circle in the sky. He only looks at me.

I stop the chanting in order to avoid the prince's attack.
I shouldn't have stopped the blade earlier if I knew that it'd turn out like this.

I wasn't able to stop the summoning.
A yellow-skinned demon appears from there. That presence and coercion,

it's unmistakably an upper demon. The vibration from the massive body, taller than five meters, that lands on the ground almost makes me fall.

Hayato said this before.

He had only ran away from a demon once.
At that time, half of his companions sacrificed themselves in order to let him escape, he said so while looking so frustrated. I couldn't believe how that absurdly strong Hayato could lose, but I understand now.

That's an order of magnitude different.

Is a demon lord even stronger than that?

It's impossible.
Absolutely impossible.

My soul, not reasoning, is screaming. I want to immediately escape from here now.
The words that helps me keep my heart that was on the verge of breaking comes from an unexpected person.

◇

"Demon, no demon lord, your fate is over now."

Prince, how are you not able to measure the opponent's strength. He doesn't seem to be bluffing. If, at this time, I had any interest in a man who can bluff to a person with absolute strength, I might not had canceled the engagement.

The demon lord tilts its head to the side, and looks at the prince's sword

interestedly.

"That sword is Claiom Solais right? A descendant of Yamato eh."

I wonder what's the some kind of howl sound I hear when the yellow-skinned demon is talking. It's the other head of the demon that's chanting.
In order to interfere with the summoning, I throw Quick Burst to the yellow-skinned demon.

It's no good.
The demon casually defends against the weak elementary magic with its hand.

I need more more than speed!
I execute Chanting Shortening and chant Explosion. It probably won't make it. However, I won't let this spell go to waste.

When the yellow-skinned demon complete its chanting, monsters begins appearing from the magic circles that are formed on the ground. Centipedes, scorpions, praying mantis, and even two-horned beetles.

It won't be easy fighting them while dealing with the yellow-skinned demon. The magic Explosion just now didn't give it much damage too. Oh right, there are the participants of the main match and their friends still. Let's leave the monsters to them.

I call out to the warriors on the place using amplification magic.

"Brave warriors, let's cooperate together to subjugate the monsters. Magician, prioritize supporting the warriors with reinforcement magic over attack magic."

The people who have been fighting the monsters separately begin to

cooperate together.
They're veterans. They probably won't lose to monsters as long as there are chances.

A centipede monster is attacking. The prince is also being attacked by a rhinoceros beetle monster.

"Fumu, the hero isn't here after all de~su. The souvenirs that I've brought have no meaning then."
<TLN: The demon is saying desu in katakana, which means death.>

While grumbling, the yellow-skinned demon casts reinforcement magic to the summoned monsters.
I'd have been able to use powerful magic if only the prince could take care of the front.

"That's strange de~su. The blue and the red should have butted in with this much uproar."

This centipede is strong. My sword can't cut it well. If only Hayato and those girls come at this time.

"Ahaha~ Onee-san, you're having a hard figh~t."
"Don't look away, let's go help the prince."

Leilas-dono of the Shiga Eight Sword, and the holy knight boy head toward the prince to assist him. The boy cuts one foot of the centipede as a parting gift.
I defeat the centipede with three consecutive explosions when its attention has turned away. The chanting was long, but since Explosion has Stun and Knockback effect, I was somehow able to do it.

Leilas-dono blocks the yellow-skinned demon's Inferno by using a great shield. He's amazing. He was probably using magic too, but I didn't think that there was anyone who could withstand that much attack beside

Hayato.

"Hou? That's a nostalgic shield. How about this then?"

The demon throws white flame that easily pierced through the great shield of Leilas-dono in high speed.

I cannot let him die. The front will collapse if he dies.
I choose one option from among my selfish thought.

"O great Parion, please grant my selfish wish to summon the hero! I am the follower, follower of the hero Hayato, Ringrande."

It is not a chant.
It's a prayer for the god Parion. I don't know how much of my life span decreases with this prayer, but I'll give 10, or 20 years of it than letting my hometown gets violated.
The talisman of divine gift on my chest is shining in respond to my prayer.

Now, come, Jules Verne.

Carrying the hero, to the battlefield!

8-17. The Day of the Final (3)

*

<AN: This is from the hero's POV, a bit before lady Ringrande's POV chapter.>

"Hey, hey, Hayato. Where do you think the demon lord will appear?"
"Dunno, don't ask me difficult things. To quickly go to where the demon lord appears and defeat it. That's my job."
<TLN: Hayato refers to himself with ore-sama. A particularly pompous way to do so.>

Tsk, Maryest, she can't not know me.

"Ahaha, that's really like hero-sama."
"Can't be helped right. Seems that it's first time the oracle is all over the place."

Rusus the cat ears, and Fifi the dog ears carefree-ly said so.
I know, you girls are on my sides. I touch the ears of the two who bend themselves toward the captain' seat I'm sitting on. It feels really great. We've been together for five years, but it's taken me three years before they let me touch it.

"If I have to reasonably guess the place, it's probably around the labyrinth city, Selbira of Shiga kingdom, or the revived labyrinth of Kubooku kingdom."

The priest, Loreiya, calmly tells her prediction. Since the secretary, Nono, and the magic warrior, Ringrande aren't here right now, I can only really talk with the witch, Meryest, and Loreiya.

Loreiya is hugging my head from behind. Her breasts on my head are heavy. I off-handedly push the breasts aside. Loreiya looks so happy even though I did it in cold-heart.

Breasts are just nothing more than lumps of fat. I don't understand perverts.

"Hero-sama is also stoic today eh."

That doesn't sound like a line from a clergywoman.

Ah, why do my party have nothing but jigglyjiggle.
Isn't it fine to have one little girl at least. There's a taciturn girl, but she's 23 this year on top of having E cup. If there's a taciturn little girl, I'll whisper love to her anytime.

Haa, the girl with middle-schooler-level flat chest who seemed to be a soldier of Shiga kindgom that we saved recently was quite good. If we had just met five years earlier, I'd have absolutely proposed her.

"Hayato, the regular contact from Nono in Selbira has turned up,
『Peaceful and Dull』 she says."
"Is that so."

Meryest and Loreiya have predicted that Selbira is the most suspicious. Even though Nono are with escorts, it might be dangerous to leave a non-combatant like her there.

"Will someone change place with Nono to Selbira?"
"Eh~, I don't wanna. I want to be near Hayato."
"Right~ we'll fight better if Hayato is near right."

Stress will likely pile up if you're in the labyrinth city without being able to go into the labyrinth, Rusus and Fifi will likely snap and assault the labyrinth.

Half an hour later, the regular contact come from Seina who has infiltrated into Yowok kingdom.

"I'll read it loud.『The poor small country is also peaceful today. I'm bored~』."

It looks like she wants to change place too like Nono, but the only one who can do infiltration among our members is only Seina the spy. Let her endure it.

Personally, I want the emergence to be in Yowok kingdom. That kingdom has done a great crime of sacrificing my honey for reviving the labyrinth after all.
<TLN: He said my honey in english.>
Not noticing the downfall of Kubooku kingdom since I kept diving into the hero labyrinth is a bitter mistake.

◇

"Isn't there a regular contact from Rin?"

It's not like that punctual Ringrande.
The underground labyrinth on Oyugock city should be inactive, so the demon lord can't possibly appear there. There must be something wrong with the oracle, but since it's the birthplace of Ringrande, and there's a wedding of her little brother going on, it's just right for her to have gone there.

"Hayato is really forgetful~"
"True. So, what does he forget?"
"The regular contact time is changed to afternoon since Rin has some business isn't it."

Tsk, Rusus and Fifi, you're just as forgetful.
Right huh, she complained about fighting against the stupid prince of

Shiga kingdom on the regular contact yesterday.

Right at that time.

The Control Orb in front of the captain's seat is flickering intensely.
It seems that someone has used the Talisman of Divine Gift. No, looking at the situation, it's Ringrande, no mistake 'bout it.

"Everyone, take your position."
"Mary, who's used the talisman."
"Wait a bit--it's Ringrande."

As expected huh.

"I'll wait at the bow. I'll leave the steering to Wyni."
"Leave it to me."

I shoulder Arondight and rush to the bow.

◇

Coming out of the dark grey space, the ship appears in the original world.

Alright, let's say the usual line.

"The great me, has arrived!"

Umu, it feels good.

The monsters flying in the air are coming to attack the Jules Verne after taking my provocation.
Maryest reports with the speaking tube.

『Ringrande is safe. The enemy is--』

Meryest is hesitating.
You don't have to say it, I didn't think that that guy is here.

The one over there is the fated opponent.
I met it three years after I had been summoned as a hero. Our party that I thought to be invincible was utterly defeated by this yellow demon. If my companions didn't sacrifice themselves, I might have been killed by this demon.

However, I'm not the same as back then.
I'll show you directly.

I will not hesitate, I'll use my full power from the start.

Activating my unique skills, [Strongest Lance (Nothing cannot be Penetrated)], and [Invincible Shield (Nothing can Penetrate)], and lastly, [Infinite Regeneration (Endless Healing)]. I can only use Infinite Regeneration once in a month, so I've been reserving it for fighting the demon lord, but I'll lose if I hesitate here against that guy.

I'll leave the small fries to my companions, and devote myself to fight the yellow bastard.

My companions go down from the ship and the ship submerges into the dimensional gap with auto pilot. We can't lose the precious ship here after all.

"Fall back, you dog of Saga empire!"

What? The stupid prince huh?
Looks like he can use the holy sword of Shiga kingdom, but you'll make it

cry y'know. It's pitiful for the holy sword if you use it like that. Looks like he can at least use holy verse, but he can't pull out the holy sword's power.

I'll have you witness, the guy who can truly use the holy sword!

"<<SING>> Arondight!"

The blue light of the holy sword is more intense than ever.
I activate Flying Boot and plunge to the yellow demon.

Today, Arondight is somewhat different!

8-18. The Day of the Final (4)

*

<AN: Continuation of Hayato's POV>

I wonder how many times we've exchanged blows with sword.

To be matched by the yellow demon that's supposed to be the magic type, my confidence is shaken y'know. I don't know what kind of magic the demon use, but it's using magic edge on its elongated nails, it's troublesome. To grow back again no matter how many times I've broken it is too much of cheating.

When I look with appraisal, the difference between my level and the yellow bastard is only a little.
Yet, why can't it reach.

I block the yellow bastard's flame attack with [Invincible Shield], and penetrate its barrier with the [Strongest Lance]-powered Arondight. However, the power is getting shaved by scaly barrier that appear around the demon.
Whenever I damage the demon even a little, the three orbs that are floating around it heal the demon immediately. I've tried destroying the orbs earlier, but the demon summons another one whenever I break one.

I'll be gradually pushed back if this continues.

"Hayato, please don't fight alone, we're a team you know."

Dang, I've gotten too heated.
Maryest is right, if we cooperate there's no way we can lose even against a strong enemy.

Fortunately, most small fries on the opposite of the arena seem to have

been eliminated by the warriors of Shiga kingdom. I didn't know since I rarely went to Shiga kingdom, but the warriors of this kingdom can't be made light of. The monsters had been separated away from the yellow demon along with the buff before I knew it, since they weren't approaching each other, a considerable distance had opened.

It's as if someone is adjusting it.

I've thought such thing unintentionally.
Ridiculous. Even if they're small fries, those monsters are of upper level 40. If there's someone that has strength to do such thing, I'd scout that person into our party.

The two monsters near us are also being dealt with by my companions. Rusus and Fifi are in charge of the centipede. It seems to be a hard fight, but it'll be over since Ringrande has come to assist them.
The two-horned rhinoceros beetle is flying around, but Wiyaryi is restraining it as to not get close.

"Wiy, I'm leaving that monster to you. Rusus and Fifi will help you soon, so please stall for some time."
"I understand Hayato. Please leave it to me."

No, Wiyaryi, I wanted you to reply that you could defeat it. Why doesn't she understand even though she's an archer.

"Is the strategy briefing over alreadyes?"

I was wondering why it didn't attack...
I'll make you regret that composure.

"Hayato, please buy us some time for the spell."
"Understood!"

Before I can attack with Arondight, the yellow bastard attacks with flame.
I block the white flame with the holy shield strengthened with Invincible Shield. I couldn't block them all, but Loreiya can always heal some minor wounds.

"As expected, really as expected deesu. To defend against <<White Inferno>>, you've improved desu. Hero is interesting after all desu."

Rusus and Fifi are helping Wiyaryi after defeating the small fry.

"Ringrande, Loreiya, we're starting the chanting."

The three girls use Talisman of Divine Gift to start the forbidden spell chanting.
The talisman has many convenient functions, by synchronizing chanting, the power and precision of tactical magic can drastically jump.

Mary intends to defeat the recovery orbs all at once huh.
However, if you use the tactical magic of forbidden spell here, it'll leave a scar that can't be ignored in this city.

"This is strange desune. Why isn't the blue and the red coming desuka?"

The yellow bastard looks puzzled.
I block the attack of the slightly absent-minded demon with my shied. I feel that this is my chance, but I can't leave the back now.

"Well, it's fine desu. The damages from hero and the others feel good, but it's about time to let the hero have the taste of fear and despair desune."

"Fuhn, you M bastard! Making me feel fear you said? Try if you can do it!"
"Well then, please accept the souvenirs desu. Please taste it to your heart's content desu."

In order to anticipate the demon's attack, I gulp down the acceleration potion. I have nothing more once I use this, but I've got a really bad feeling. I drink the bitter liquid. The effect comes out little by little, the movement of the surrounding gradually becomes slower.

A gigantic summoning circle appear high in the sky behind the yellow bastard.
You think I'll let you do it easily!

"<<SING>> Arondight, <<PLAY>> Tunas."
<TLN: Play as in playing musical instrument, especially string's.>

I recite the holy verses of the holy sword and the holy armor.
Rousing my mana, magic power (Energy) is being produced as if overflowing from the core of the holy armor, the philosopher's stone. And then, that vast power flows into the holy sword.

The preparation is complete before the yellow's bastard finishes with the summoning circle.

"<<Shining Blade>>"

Finishing move should be shouted after all.
Swinging Arondight with subsonic speed, I turn the blade of light toward the summoning circle.

Shiing.

Tsk, that bastard threw one of the healing orb up in the sky and warded off Shining Blade.
I swing the remaining Shining Blade, but this time the demon uses the monster's corpses below to intercept it.

The fight was futile, and the summoning had been completed.

"What..the heck."

A whale is flying in the sky.
It's a gigantic monster bigger than 300 meters in length.

"G, great monstrous fish?!"
"Lies, the one that the golden wild boar king used, that?"
"The legendary aerial fortress isn't it?"

The three people who've stopped the chanting let out voices of shocks.
The great monstrous fish, despite the somewhat silly name, it's a level 97 monster.

I couldn't believe it and rechecked many times.

However, there's no mistake about it.

"We can't withdraw no matter what the opponent is. Wiy, Rusus, Fifi, call the Jules Verne back to the surface, I'll permit you to use this as the main battery. Take Arondight, and go."

We've hidden the precious dimensional submerging warship to protect it from harm, but it seems that's not to be. I'm sorry to the emperor, but it doesn't seem like I can keep my promise of taking the warship back safely.

If we use the ship's main battery in the downtown, it'll certainly become catastrophic.
The hero's name will probably be ruined, but there is no other way to defeat that monster. I hand over Arondight that will become the core of the main battery. I take a spare magic sword from the infinite stowing (Inventory) in its place.

"That's some nice fear node~su."

Damn you yellow bastard.
You'll only keep that conceit for so long. The time when Rin and the others finish their chanting will be your last.

I wonder what the great monstrous fish is thinking, instead of looking here, it's staring hard at one corner of the arena. I don't really understand, but this is favorable. That yellow bastard might have unexpectedly failed the summoning, and could not control it.

"However, the hope mixed with the bitter taste of fear, quite satisfactory desune."

Hope huh. It's fine to think about pleasant things right?

I, after this fight is over, will go visit the orphanage. I absolutely won't die until I get to the paradise of little girls. Taking a bath together, sharing a bed together, the dream spreads.

"As long as the great me is a hero, hope always exist y'know."
"Laughable desune."

I didn't notice it.
The summoning circle that has summoned the great monstrous fish remains in the sky.

That's right, I shouldn't have not noticed the meaning of it.

From the summoning circle that hasn't disappeared even after the summoning is over, great monstrous fish begins appearing one after another.
Including the first one, there are seven of them.

I see, you guys are my death huh.

Hey, Parion-san.

Your world is too hard y'know.

<AN: Next Chapter is from Satou's POV>

8-19. The Battle in the Arena

*

Satou's here. It seems that they served whale meat for the school lunch a long time ago. I had eaten the meat of the whale that was stranded ashore on the coast when I was visiting my grandfather's house, it was really delicious.
Although that's something from a long ago, so it might've been glorified.

◇

In the end, I lost the timing to attack when I was hesitating.
For the time being, I guess I should ensure that no one dies.

I move from the spire to the audience seating on the arena.

The duke and the king body-double--are still having a hard time.

Alright, let's use that here.

There's this [Magic Hand] among the magic I've acquired recently. A nature magic user who has become able to use intermediate level magic is sure to acquire this magic.
It's probably easier to understand if I say that the effect is close to the so-called psychokinesis. It seems magicians use this magic to reach place where their hands can't, scratch their back, or rub their own shoulders.
Unskilled magicians can only exert the same level of power as theirs with this [Magic Hand], so there's rarely any magician who use this in a fight.
Following the mastery of Nature magic skill, the number of hands I can deploy at the same time with [Magic Hand] have also increased just like with magic arrow. Similarly, if someone who excels in mana

manipulation uses [Magic Hand], it can reaches quite far. In my case, I can extend 120 hands to around 500 meters each.
It seems that even among the magicians in the world, one that can skillfully use more than two hands is quite rare.

Innumerable [Magic Hands] smoothly extend; it seize three monsters who block the way of the duke and his companions, and throw them away to the arena.

The handling is a tiny bit difficult.
Before long, I get the [Magic Hands] to hold swords, and fight like a thousand-armed Kannon (Senju Kannon).

The duke's escorts are surprised to see the monsters suddenly removed, but it seems they prioritize getting the duke escapes rather than investigating the cause. There are some people looking for the person who have removed the monsters, but no one notices me. Apparently, this is thanks to the skills I've learned during the infiltration mission before.

◇

Now then, it seems that the people who can't fight monsters have finished evacuating.
Of course, I didn't only watch the evacuation as it happened. I was doing work of catching people who got left behind with [Magic Hand], and throwing them to the escape passage.

The monsters near the hero's party and the yellow-skinned demon are a pain. Thanks to the provocation the hero has done in the beginning, the monsters always go back to him no matter how many times I've thrown them away.
I decide to leave two monsters who are particularly stubborn to the hero's

party. That tiger ears person, and that wolf ears person will probably defeat them.

There are six monsters remaining.
It'd be nice if the prince and his cohorts help to exterminate the monsters, but for some reason, they're going towards the yellow-skinned demon, so the number of monsters aren't decreasing. Such inefficient people.

The Eight Shiga Sword man has left the battle, maybe because the damage he's incurred from the yellow-skinned demon in the beginning is big. Really, how cowardly.
The battle-maniac boy was fighting amusingly against the yellow-skinned demon, but he has fainted after receiving an attack from the demon's tail. The stomach portion of his armor is dented, but looking at his HP, it doesn't seem to be a wound that'll kill him, so it's probably fine to leave him alone. Looking at his position, it doesn't seem like he'll get caught up in a ranged attack anyway.

◇

"Yasaku, be more prudent with big moves. We don't know if the other people will fall apart. Preserve your stamina."
"Baro, you're just too rigid. It's time to decrease their number with a bang now."
"Hey wait, Yasaku, and Tan, save the chattering for later."
"That's right, if you don't keep your guard up, it'll be dangerous."

The party fighting the War Mantis seems to be fine. A heavy warrior, a magic warrior, a magician, and a priest carrying a pole arm, it's a party with good balance.

Of course, there aren't only party like that around.

"Sir Hoen, I will take care of this, so please stand back."
"What's this, Sir Muzuki, I won't let you be the only one who does great deeds here!"

The knights are compromising to each other in front of a pill bug-type monster.
These two are of lower level 20s, but since their knight retainers are high leveled, they'd be fine.

I wonder if it's okay to take that out here?

No-one-is-looking right?

I use [Stalagmite (Toss Stone)] in secret.
It's an elementary level earth magic, but since it hits the (monster's) weak abdomen from below, it pierces through it, quite helpful. Even though the pill bug is left hanging in the air by the stone lance on its abdomen, it's still alive. The monster's remaining HP is only around 20%.
As for the rest, the knights can just rush in and attack from position where they can't be counterattacked, and it's history. Even though they were having a concession earlier, what a calculated bunch.

The next party seems to be a mish-mash.

Even though there are two shield users, they don't seem able to use provocation skill. As the result, the monster aims for the attacker, and the rear guards devote themselves to heal the attacker instead of casting attack magic.

"Kyaa"
"Sosona! Gerca, fix your posture. Don't let Sosona's sacrifice go to waste."

One member of the party got kicked by the cricket type monster and launched into the air. Still, sacrifice you said.... Isn't she still alive?

That's a girl of fairykin I guess?
She's been thrown up around 10 meters high into the air. She had probably protected against the attack with magic, but her HP is rapidly decreasing to below 10%. I catch her in the air with [Magic Hand], and pull her here. Along the way, I use [Magic Hand] to make her drink a not-for-sale potion.

I've made it somehow.
After her HP has recovered to around 90%, I lay down the girl on the audience seat. I've wanted to see her closer since it's the first time I've seen a Leprechaun.

[Magic Hand] is truly convenient. I'm afraid that it'd turn me into a degenerate.

I stealthily invoke 10 Remote Arrows, and snipe at the cricket's leg joints from behind.
They seem to be surprised with the sudden support fire, but with this, I can probably leave them unattended without problem.

This party seems to be the one struggling the most. Even though the other parties are struggling, they're fighting while staying alive.
Sometimes they need help, so I absorb mana from the monster while I'm observing the hero's fight.

◇

That yellow-skinned demon seems to be a companion of the ojaru and nari demons from before after all. If I tell it that the demon lord has been defeated, I wonder if this demon will be docile for the next 66 years?

Nevertheless, the three orbs floating above the yellow-skinned demon sure are great. Even if the hero and his party dealt great damage to the demon, the orbs immediately recover it. I wonder if there's a way to summon the orb written in the demon summoning book from the other day? After checking it with my AR, it seems they're called Cure Orbs. I've searched for it, but there's nothing about it written in the demon summoning book. How unfortunate.

Oh?
The crisis perception is warning me to something high in the sky?

There's a summoning magic circle over there.
I don't know what will be summoned, but it's fine to just immediately get whatever POP out of it from here alright?

And then, the thing that comes out of it is--

A whale?

It's flying in the air, and about 300 meters big, but it's unmistakably a whale. I don't think even the blue whale grows this big though?

The monster's name seems to be Great Monstrous Fish.

Any Japanese who sees it for the first time must be saying, "A whale flying in the sky", it's just how the etymology goes.

The hero and his companions look surprised.

Of course they would be.
I mean, when it's that big, I can't imagine just how many meals you can make from it.

If I seriously make yamatoni from it, I wonder how many I could make?
<TLN: https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/大和煮, essentially beef boiled with soy sauce, ginger, and sugar.>

My eyes met with the great monstrous fish's eyes unintentionally.

Well hey, demon.
You can do it if you try after all!

I had almost danced in joy reflexively, but it wasn't only one.

There are another six of it coming out of the summoning circle, terrific.
I've waited more after that, but it seems to be the end. There may be more coming out, so I'll stop myself from destroying the magic circle.
<TLN: Sorry, it was 'including' not 'excluding' on the previous chapter, so there are 'only' 7 whales.>

◇

Now then, since I mustn't damage the meat when I demolish the whales, I decide to shave off their heads with Laser and put them into the storage immediately. I actually wanted to demonstrate Excalibur sharpness for it, but since they're too big, it just won't reach.

A single Laser shot is weak, so decide to use it together with Condense.

The power of a single laser shot is weak, but I've become able to shoot multiple shots after I've leveled up the skill level. When I unify them into one with Condense, the power and the convergence will be increased.

I simulate the Laser trajectory by using Space Grasp and Radar together.
The exposure time was going to be slightly insufficient, so I decide to shoot it like an ON/OFF consecutive pulse laser.
I can use the magic consecutively just fine, but it'll take some time, and I don't want them running back to the summoning circle.

Flash, and it smells as if a coffee is nearby from the ozone. The pulse laser strokes the whales on its track, and shoots out beyond the cloud.

Alright, cleared in one blow!

It'll be catastrophic if those gigantic masses fall down, so I promptly use Ground Shrink and Sky Drive together to get close to the whale meat that have began falling, and collect them into the Storage. The whale meat feel hot, I don't know whether because it's been roasted, or because the flesh and blood have evaporated.

It's fresh from the oven.
<TLN: Can also mean "Pleased with myself".>

Even though they've been burned with Laser, there are still a lot of body fluids splashed around. I've heard that blood won't come out from wounds burned by Laser, but I wonder if it's just a hearsay?

It seems that I'm the only one who's puzzling over such thing.
The Arena that had been wrapped in tumult until now has become quiet before I knew it.

Umm~, whales are delicious and all, but I think you shouldn't eat them.

>Title [Great Monstrous Fish Slayer] Acquired
>Title [Phantom Technique User] Acquired
>Title [Light Technique User] Acquired
>Title [Sky Chef] Acquired

8-20. The Battle in the Arena (2)

*

Satou's here. It's said that the three major desires of man are sleep, appetite, and sexual desire. That's why it can't be helped that I lost to the appetite and did something careless. However, I plan to do my best as to not lose to the sexual desire. Since it's said that lolicon is one of the seven big crimes.

◇

Oops.
Even though it's alright since I'm in Nanashi silver mask mode, I might've been a bit too conspicuous.

Now then, wonder how I should deceive them.

No, this might be a good opportunity. I've been doing something like strolling alone incognito in an MMO hunting ground since some time ago, so if I make it really showy here, it might help in making exposing my true identity harder since it'll be different than my usual self.

Fortunately, the blood from the whales have evaporated into mist, so they should haven't seen me.
There's probably no one that can use [Clairvoyance] like me. I've tested this with Arisa, I can sense if someone is using it to see me with mana perception.

For now, let's do something about my voice. "A, aa, a", I alter my voice to be higher.

>[Strange Voice Skill Acquired]

It has to be the most showy one, so I decide to use [White Mask, Halo options attached].
These clothes were made when I was thinking with Arisa late at night with a strange tension, and went overboard. As for the garment, the clothes is white as the basic tone, and colored with gold threads. On top of having needlessly fluttering cloths in the style of miko, the shoulder, chest, and back areas are made to look gender-neutral.
I don't wear a mantle or an overcoat, and equip the usual white smile mask. The wig is the newly made one with long straight violet hair. It's not made from Arisa's hair of course. It's just a dyed white-hair wig.
I use illusion magic to add three shining halo options there that will make afterimages (blurs) when I move. As a bonus, I put bracelets on my ankles that are shining more intense as I move faster. I only need to put [<<Flexible Shield>>], and [<<Flexible Armor>>] and it's complete with this.
I leave the title into [Unsung Hero], matching the Nanashi name.
<TLN: The hero here is the 'Eiyuu' one, not the 'Yuusha' one.>

It's a showy gaudy style that I absolutely won't wear when I am Satou.

Since I'm going to intervene anyway, I turn serious, and use Remote Arrows to destroy the two remaining beetle monsters, and the yellow-skinned demon's orbs. I directed the remaining arrows toward the yellow-skinned demon itself, but it could defend against the arrows. Several magic arrows seem to have been burned by the fire magic of the yellow-skinned demon. Using magic against magic is a good idea. I'll try it next time.

"Who's dhere?"
"Who are you!"

The yellow-skinned demon and the hero asked my identity in overlap. While keeping distances to each other, both of them seem to be wary of me. I lower my altitude and descend to approximately 10 meters above the

ground.

"Nanashi."

I utter my name briefly.
Thanks to maxing out Strange Voice skill, I can freely use any voice I want. I adjust the voice while imagining how a voice actress perform as a boy like. It's giving an impression of unknown age and gender.

The crisis perception warns me of the danger from the beautiful women behind the hero. That reminds me, it's been 2-3 minutes since the chanting begins. It's probably some kind of advanced level magic, but judging from this sensation, it's probably not a magic that should be used inside a town.

Not good.
That, I have to stop that.

It's been awhile since I feel this impatient. I cheeks the log just to be sure, it doesn't seem to be from mind magic.
The best way is to persuade the hero to stop them, but the problem is that there won't be enough time to do it, so I'm going to be forceful.

First, I use [Break Magic] to forcefully stop the chanting.

Of course, disrupting magic that's being composed causes the mana from the source to begin overflowing on the surrounding. I've expected this course of events from the result of doing magic experiments during late nights, so I use [Force Barrier (Mana Section)] to protect the beautiful women. It shouldn't be that strong of a defense magic, but it seems to have protected them without any problem.
However, there seem to be feedbacks from the forced termination of the magic chanting to some extents, they fall to the grounds on their knees.

"What are you doing!"
"That magic is too dangerous you know. Sorry, but I've made them stop the chanting you know."
<TLN: He talked a bit like Arisa here.>

The hero rushes to the women while protesting to me, but I give him the explanation after the fact. I changed my tone a bit to match my voice. After all, f you're a hero, I'd like you to mind the damage to the surrounding a bit more. Please follow the example of Tsubasaman from the rebroadcast a long time ago.

"This is laughable desu. Are you quarreling among yourselves desuka? You must have used illusion technique, and sent the great monstrous fish back to the summoning gate desune? Your friend has got quite some wisdom there desu."

Huh? You're going to interpret it like that eh.

◇

The hero's silver ship who seemed to have been hiding in the sub-space surfaced. White light emits from the bow of the surfaced ship.

It loiters for a while, but then after hesitating for a bit, it decides on the aim, and shoots a beam.

Unfortunately, it's aiming at me.

Apparently, they judged me as an enemy since they saw the hero was protesting to me. I curse at those simplistic people in my mind, but I do objectively look like a suspicious person after all, so I consent for a little. The mask probably doesn't inspire me as an ally of justice after all.

I stack <<Flexible Shields>> and block the beam from the hero's ship with it. The Flexible Shield's HP rapidly decreases. Looks like it has about 4-8 times the power of my Laser. Since I can't be blocking it forever, I use [Condense] magic to divert the beam's direction toward the sky. It might have been easier if I had [Absorb Light] of shadow magic.

The ship's bow that's discharging the beam has become red hot, so the attack is probably going to stop soon. The hero is shouting something to his companions in the ship, but it looks like they can't hear him.

"So weak hero! <<DANCE>> Claiomh Solais."

Huh? The prince's here.

After the hero's ship, even the prince judges me as an enemy, and shoots the flying holy sword. I shift my face to the side to avoid the sword, and just before it passes me, I catch the grip, stopping it. The holy sword is going wild in my grasp, but it quiets down immediately after I draw out the mana from it.

However, prince, you sure looks quite exhausted.

When I was putting the whales into my storage, there were large quantity of parasite looking monsters falling together with the body fluids, that I didn't put into the storage, toward the arena. They were individually weak monsters, but they were falling just right to where the prince and his cohorts were.
I thought that the prince and his cohorts would be fine so I left them alone, but it seems they unexpectedly had a hard time. His armor is partially destroyed, and there are countless scars that look like they've been eaten from monsters remaining on the bare skin. He's doing well, not dying from blood loss.
The battle maniac boy is in more horrible state than the prince, but he's stabbing the monster corpses while laughing loudly as if he's gone mad.

◇

The yellow-skinned demon creates a summoning circle below its feet like it's trying to get away, so I use [Break Magic] to destroy the summoning circle. Next, I destroy the yellow-skinned demon's defensive magic with [Break Magic], but it seems to be multi-layered, it hasn't completely come off with one shot.

I quickly approach with Ground Shrink, and use [Mana Drain] on the yellow-skinned demon to snatch its mana away.

"Gununu! To have my mana easily stolen to this degree!"

The yellow-skinned demon isn't also letting its mana get stolen freely, it's doing various useless resistances.

"You bastard, you must be the true ancestor of the vampires desune."

This time I'm treated as a vampire huh.

For the time being, I continue to use the combo of hitting it with [Break Magic], followed by [Mana Drain]. The demon is saying something, but I noncommittally ignore it.
I can snatch 300 MP with one go. I've thought that it only has 710MP since it's level 71, but it doesn't seem like it's been emptied even after I've deprived it thrice. Apparently, demons have far larger MP pool than human. Its mana finally dried up after I snatch it for 10 times. Doesn't it have more MP than me?

The snatched mana is too redundant, so I charge it into the holy sword that I've just got. At first the sword is the size of a one-handed sword, but

it's growing bigger as I put more mana. If Arisa was here, she would have a weird idea while grinning with loose cheeks, no doubt bout it. The expansion stopped after I put around 500 MP. It's become as big as the replica in the museum.

After I've finished tearing off the yellow-skinned demon magic defense, stripped it off its magic power, and shaved 90% of its HP, I throw the demon toward the hero's party.

The hero's sword bisects the yellow-skinned demon that's come into his view without any hesitation. So it can be easily defeated when its defense magic has been broken after all. If I develop a magic that can break multiple magic at once, I can defeat them easily it seems. The yellow-skinned demon was saying, "I demand a restart noDESu", but what exactly did it want to restart was unknown until the end.

The magicians in his party are burning the remains with magic.

The hero steps before me. He's still drawing his sword. Come to think of it, he's not using a holy sword, but a magic sword. Did the holy sword break?

"What is your intention."
"Wasn't it your fated opponent?"
"Fuhn, I won't say thanks."
"I don't mind you know. You'd have defeated it if you had used the forbidden magic right?"

Judging from the yellow-skinned demon's composure, it probably had countermeasures for it, but it'd be boorish of me to retort with that. However, this tone is a mistake. It's hard to talk.

"By the way, that stupid prince is going to die, you're not going to help him?"

I turn my view toward the prince from the hero's words, he's being toyed with by small fry monsters after seemingly getting inflicted by intoxicant poison. Looks like he's fighting with a dagger.

It seems that the hero doesn't want to actively help him.

I'm also fine with leaving him alone, but I have to eliminate the monsters anyway, so I decide to help him on the occasion.
It'd be faster if I use remote arrows, but let's try using the holy sword that I've just acquired.

"<<DANCE>> Claiomh Solais."

The holy sword Claiomh Solais leaves my hand, and multiplies itself like papers scattering away from a paper stack. It's split into 13 swords with thin blades. The true sword is wrapped in blue light on the exterior.
Aim marks like with [Remote Arrow] are displayed in my AR. I can also set the trajectory in similar fashion it seems. I shoot them at the small fry monsters just like that.

The blade cuts the monsters in successions as they evaporate by the holy light.
They were all around level 20 monsters when I first saw them, but there are some level 50 monsters mixed in before I knew it. It looks like they used skill called [Life Drain] to steal levels from the other monsters and the prince, and then grew up.

I see.

That explains why the prince's hair has become white somehow.

He also didn't have that many wrinkles, and his level should have been in upper 40s, yet it has been dropped to upper 20s now. The battle maniac

boy is also like the prince, but he's in considerably better condition than the prince. His level is still in upper 30, and his hair hasn't aged to become white either.

Alas, it would have been better if I had waited to throw Claiomh Solais for a bit longer.
It should have been good enough for them to survive with their five limbs intact.

8-21. The Battle in the Arena (3)

*

Satou's here. There's this thing called Tabletop RPG. It's a game where you're role-playing as someone in the game's world, but unlike Westerners, Japanese people are generally shy, so in most matches, they talk in business-like manners the whole time.
I'll say this again, there are a lot of shy people among Japanese.

◇

A birdkin scout comes flying from the opposite side of the arena.

Apparently, the duke forces have finally arrived. Confirming on the map, there are 10 iron golems, and 3000 knights encircling the arena. There are also several mobile forts.

"Tsk, coming here after all this."

I'm saying my farewell to the hero who's uttering cursing words. It'll be troublesome if I don't leave soon.

"Hero, I will have to go soon. I don't want to get too close to influential people."
<TLN: He's using boku to refer himself here, mostly used by polite males, but can and is rarely used by females too.>

I'm sorry, I'm actually already on the side of those influential people.

"I understand that feel. You can probably see it already, but I'm Hayato Masaki. It may be confusing, but Masaki is the family name. You're also a Japanese--no, with that hair, a reincarnated person huh. You're a former Japanese right?"

"Japanese or not, you already know from seeing me don't you? I'm the [Hero without Name], Nanashi. We might meet again in a battlefield someday."
<TLN: Alright, the unsung hero thing isn't going well with how Satou's using the title for lol. It can still mean either way though.>

Do I regard myself a hero--nope~ it's embarrassing enough that I feel like rolling on the floor. It's like installing chuuni language converter tool in a smartphone.

I'm really glad that I have the poker face skill.

"Wait! Won't you fight with me together? I want you for the battle with the demon lord."

Gross.
At least, please say, "I want your power" instead. Being a homo on top of lolicon is unreasonable.

"Is that a proposal? Thanks for the invitation, but no thanks. The sca~ry onee-sama bunch behind you are glaring after all. Bye then, ladykiller-san."

What the heck is with [Ladykiller-san]!Someone please stop me. I wonder if it's because I'm aware of my gender-neutral speech, I have become a strange character.
I've cleared the objective of becoming a character that won't be associated with me (Satou), but it's too gross, I'm dying.

◇

The scout unit that have raided the audience seating begin to call out [Yamato] when they see me.

What?

After I look at myself, I understand.

13 Claiomh Solais splits are floating around me like options from old shooting games, or bits.
They probably see it like the picture of Yamato in the museum.

However, wasn't Yamato a big man who wielded a two meters long great sword?
As expected, the current gender-neutral look of me can't possibly be likened with him I think. No, when I think again, the soldiers are pretty far away from me, so they probably can't measure my height.

Now then, let's heal the prince's and his cohort's wounds before leaving the stage. If I leave them alone to die here, it'll be like MPK, leaving me with a bad aftertaste.
Since it's troublesome to take the prince and his cohorts buried in the wreckages of the monsters, I put the wreckages into my storage, and then heal them who are left on the ground with water magic. I intended to only heal them for a bit, but they got completely recovered instead. I wasn't able to heal his white hair and aging, but I don't have any interest to help him that far. Have the temple look for it later yourself.
Looks like their destroyed equipments have been stored inside the storage along with the monsters remains, they're half-naked. I feel that it's pointless, so I put mantles I've got from thieves back then on top of their bodies.

"See you later, hero."
"Ah, let's meet again in the battlefield with the demon lord next time!"

Oops, I forgot to tell him that I've already defeated the demon lord.
There's going to be an oracle from the god before long anyway, so I guess it's fine.

I climb several hundreds meters high with Sky Drive, and fly away beyond the sky with the Wind Magic: Air Cannon. When I tried it back then, the speed exceeded 100 Km/H. Let's try to see the maximum speed soon.

To disappear beyond the sky like this, I feel like a hero from Showa era.
<TLN: This time he's saying Hero in English. In this context, he means the superhero in TV kind, and probably Ultraman in particular.>

◇

When I'm up in the sky on top of the duchy capital, I confirm that Arisa and the others have properly evacuated into the basement of the mansion. Sera seems to have been safely rescued too, she's in the same room with Arisa and the others. Looks like the previous earl couple and the employees are all safe too.
I'm glad that lady Karina, and little brother-kun are also safe in the scroll workshop.

I land in a suitable-looking forest.

It looks like I'm being watched by monitoring magic, though I don't know if it's from the hero's companion, or the duke's subordinate. Once I had landed in the dense forest, I used [Break Magic] on myself, and the monitoring goft canceled.
I thought that it'd be troublesome if the sky drive got canceled, so I made a landing, but it seems that break magic only affects the designated target magic.

I go back to the duchy capital while flying close to the top of the forest. When I get close enough to see the capital, I descend to the ground and continue moving.

I infiltrate the duke castle by using the route I've used to sneak into the

duke's third son room before. According to the map, it seems that the duke and the king's body-double are in the same room.

Looks like the hero, followed by lady Ringrande, and the imperial princess Maryest, are coming to the castle to have an audience with them. Since I can't find the other hero's companions and his ship, they've probably gone back to the sub-space.

"Please forgive me for the sudden visit."

I've entered the room brazenly, but it seems none of the guards notice me until after I've opened my mouth. Are these guards alright?

The guards are coming from the roof by breaking through it, and from the hidden room.
It's troublesome to deal with them, so I use [Magic Hand] to make them unable to come closer.

"Who are you."
"I'm called Nanashi."

I answer the duke-san question. Duke-san instructs the guards with gesture, and they go back to their hiding places. The head miko-san might have told him about me, but to be in the same room as a suspicious person without guards like this, quite a daring person.
Only the duke's butler remains. If this was a manga, he'd be a dexterous type, but this butler seems to be of domestic affair type.

"I'll listen to your business."
"It's nothing much. I've come here to return this."

I unwrap the cloth while saying so, and hand over the holy sword Claiomh Solais.
Since they asked me how I got it, I told them the course of events

honestly. For some reason, they were surprised when I talked about how the holy sword split into 13 when I recited the holy verse.

"This is too abrupt, I cannot believe you."
"There have been several people who can make the sword『Dance』by reciting the holy verse, but there were none who could release the true form of the holy sword."

They asked me to demonstrate if I really could do it, but isn't it bad to draw a sword before the king, regardless if he's a body-double?

"You don't need to worry. I've heard the story from the head miko. If the story about you defeating the demon lord is true, then you can kill us even without drawing a sword."

You're awful, duke-san. It is a fact, but you're going to shatter the guards' prides.

Since I've already transfered all the mana that I put into Claiomh Solais to other holy swords, I charge mana into it once again. It's fine with 500MP right.

Not only the duke, and the king, even the hiding guards are also surprised to see the holy sword growing.

"<<DANCE>>"

Just like before, Claiomh Solais splits into 13 swords and floats around my body.

"Ooh, the legend is true after all!"
"Beautiful, that painting truly wasn't an imaginary work."

They're too surprised.

The body-double-san even looks like he's going to go into spasm anytime, scary. Even getting excited should be done in moderation, okay.

Since it looks like they've admired enough, I release the excited state of the sword, and transition it back into one sword. I retrieve the MP that I've put into the sword, wrap it with a cloth and pass it to the body-double-san.

"You can keep holding it."
"Is it fine to do so without getting permission from the royal capital?"

Hey now, body-double-san, you shouldn't say thing like that without getting permission from the real king alright. I vaguely ask if it's alright to do it without the permission from the real king. The duke also nods when I glance at him.

"It is the spirit of the ancestor king Yamato-sama."

I don't really understand, but maybe there's some kind of will left behind? It's a convenient sword, but it's not like I'm in trouble even without it. Let's make up something suitable as a reason to give it back.

"Don't you need it for the defense of the royal capital?"
"I don't mind, there is another holy sword in the royal capital."

Ah, that casted holy sword huh.
I've made swords with the same technique myself so I know, that sword is weak even compared to Gjallarhorn. It could cope with lower demons, but it probably wouldn't be able to match upper demons.

I have swords already, so I want to refuse, but it seems that once the sword has decided on its master, it will go back to its master if anyone draws it out. Normally, the master is decided with a dedicated ceremony, but it seems the case this time is extremely unusual.

Looks like they really want personnels who can subjugate the demon lord, when I receive the holy sword and the mood becomes hard for me to refuse, the talks about service, peerage, and such comes out. Of course since I don't have any such intention, I gently refuse it. It's already quite enough. I got interested when there was a talk of marrying the princess, but when I heard that she was a nine years old princess who hadn't got a fiance, that interest disappeared. Tell that to Hayato instead.

Since I feel bad for taking the holy sword for free, I decide to trade it with the famous holy sword in Shiga kingdom.

"T, this is, the holy sword Gjallarhorn that was stolen by the demonic man 17 years ago!"
"Ooh! God! The holy sword tempered by the ancestor king Yamato-sama has returned once again to the Shiga kingdom!"

I didn't think that they would be this delighted. It might have been better if I returned it earlier. By demonic man it must be Zen huh.

Since the hero and his party have arrived in the castle, I decide to bid my farewell.

The arena is ruined, so the final is postponed for one month, but a banquet ceremony is going to be held under the pretext of 'Upper Demon Subjugation'. It seems they've decided that the great monstrous fish were just illusions that the demon used.

Late night at that day, I make a casted holy sword the size of one-handed sword modeled after Claiomh Solais in one section of the underground labyrinth. The Claiomh Solais' sheath is among the garbages that I've put into the storage, so I reproduce it with the exact same look.

>[Counterfeit Skill Acquired]

>Title [Holy Swords Blacksmith] Acquired
>Title [Counterfeit Specialist] Acquired

At dawn, I sneak to body-double-san's bedroom and leave the replica on the bedside.
I put a note that says, "I've prepared the replica, please use it as you see fit.", together with the replica. With this, even the nitpicking nobles of pedigree can probably be effectively deceived. If the kingdom protector holy sword went missing, they would find someone to blame even if the duke and the king had given their permissions.

However, I'd have preferred a beautiful woman's bedroom if I had to sneak in anyway.

8-22. The Hero and Satou

*

Satou's here. People have different sense of values, but the saying, "The grass is greener on the other side of the fence." exist in any country. Of course, even in the parallel world.

◇

"Hou? 『Tempura』 huh."

That's the first word from the hero who comes to the banquet while taking along a lot of beautiful women. Looks like he deliberately used Japanese language for the tempura part.

"No, this is a dish called tempura. It's a secret specialties of the people in the know from the northern part of the dukedom."
"Hey, Sato."
"It is an honor to have my name remembered by hero-sama, but my name extends on the end, so please call me Satou."
"That so, sorry then. Satou."
"No, no, please do not mind it."

I don't mind if the hero finds out that I'm a Japanese when I'm as Satou, but it'll be troubling if it gets exposed with all observing eyes here.

The hero receives the tempura that Lulu presents on the plate.

"This is, I'm surprised. I've gotten used with beautiful women around me, but this is the first time I've seen a girl as beautiful as you. Wish I met her five years earlier."

As expected, even the hero was tactful enough not to say the "Five years earlier" part out loud. I didn't think that I got to read it with lip-reading skill.
Lulu's face is turning pale as if she's been insulted with an indirect sarcasm in public. It seems the hero gets secretly scolded by lady Ringrande. The two people beside the hero are smiling, but their eyes aren't.

I pat Lulu's head lightly, and ask her go to the kitchen to get some ingredients.
I'll follow up properly later.

The hero hardens when he sees Arisa who comes as the substitute.

"My honey!"
"Oh my, hero Hayato-sama, it has been a while."

Arisa who understands TPO talks in prim and proper manner. Still, honey he said.
Lady Ringrande, and the imperial princess Maryest confirm with each other that they don't know Arisa in low voices. The other hero's party members don't seem like they're interested with the hero's love life, they're busy eating the tempura and the aspic jellies. Aren't they the hero's harem?

"I'm really happy that you're alive, princess Arisa."

Noises like, "Princess?", or "Who is that maid talking with hero-sama?", are coming from the outfield.

"I thought you had died after getting rolled up in the political strife--"

The hero approaches Arisa while looking very happy, but then his

expression freezes.

Ah, I have a bad feeling about this.

We move for a bit, and now there's a table between me and the hero.

"Oy, Satou! Have you forgotten the spirit of YES lolita, NO touch!"

So he really saw Arisa's title, [Satou's Slave]. Even so, I'm not interested in the young ones enough to be needing such spirit.

"Hero-sama, what exactly are you talking about?"
"That's right, Satou-sama was the one who saved me from predicaments. The reason why I'm a slave is because I've been put on Geass magic during the Yowok kingdom invasion."

She whispered the matter about being a slave to the hero so only he could hear it.
The hero confirmed something to the imperial princess Maryest, and the priestess Loreiya-san, but both of them waved their heads. Even the hero's party cannot remove the Geass huh. Just how strong it is. Come to think of it, I also asked head miko-san about it through Sera, but she couldn't do it too after all.

In the end, I proved them that I hadn't touch Arisa to he extent of getting myself checked with Loreiya-san's Truth Judgment magic. From my standpoint, there was no need for me to be subjected with Truth Judgment magic, but since I didn't want to be misunderstood of being a lolicon, I accepted it.

"Is that so, you didn't touch her! Well well, I really want to drink some nice liquor with you."
"I'm afraid I cannot."

It seems like he'll talk about little girls all night long until I vomit.
There were some things we needed to talk about, but since I couldn't keep monopolizing the hero, we promised to meet again later, but there was no opportunity to talk with the hero again today.

The women who followed the prince back then were trying to butter the hero up, but lady Ringrande, and imperial princess Maryest overwhelmingly rejected them.

Girls of 12-13 years old were also talking to the hero, but he acted normally with them, maybe they were out of his strike zone.

◇

It was hard consoling Lulu the evening of that day. The fight with the demon lord might have been easier even.

"Lulu being cute is really the truth, the hero, Arisa, and me see Lulu as a beautiful girl."
"Thank you very much, I'm happy even if it's a lie master."

Even after I whispered sweet lines close to Lulu's ear, she only perceived it as consolation words.

When I told her that she could request her favorite dishes, she told me every kind of sweets that I had made until now. I'm very happy that she's reached the point where she can say something selfish.

Since it'll take too much time to make them, I take out the finished sweets I've put in the storage on the kitchen, and bring them to the dining room where Lulu is waiting.
I knew that Mia, Pochi, and Tama are waiting beside Lulu, so I had

prepared the shares for four people. Of course, there's nothing for Arisa and me. Arisa has been taking excess calories lately, so she's presently forbidden from sweets. I don't need to do the diet, but I'm abstaining from indulgence food to accompany Arisa.

Today I've made a new cake to surprise Lulu. It's a custard pie made from a type of fruit which has the same name as Lulu.
This lulu fruit looks really unappetizing when it's unpeeled, it's a fruit of misfortune. In addition, when eaten raw, it's so sour, not something that should be eaten. However, when it's heated, it strangely turns into a peach-like fruit. From what I've heard from the person who's given me this fruit, they process it by pickling them, not heating.

"My new creation today is Lulu custard pie."

Lulu hesitated when she heard the name, but as if giving up, she cut a mouthful and put it into her mouth.

"It's delicious."

Large drops of tears are falling on Lulu's cheeks. Huh~? I didn't expect this development.

"That sour fruit becomes this delicious."
"Moreover, the color looks beautiful right?"
"Yes, thank you very much. I understand what master is trying to say somehow."

That is good above all.
Lulu continues eating the pie on the large platter while crying.

I wipe the mouth of Mia who's watching that intensely with a handkerchief. I take out the prepared pie from the Storage from under the table, and cut it for three people's shares.

"Delicious."
"Sweet~"
"One hundred points nanodesu!"
"Uuu, I have to keep dieting.... It's alright with just a mouthful, a mouthful..."

Arisa is saying that like a bad loser, no good. She's absolutely going to say 'just another one'.

That day, I slept together with Lulu, and whispered "Lulu, you're cute." until she went asleep. Since Pochi and the others played janken, I had a feeling that it had been decided there would be a daily special of whispering from tonight on.
Please drop that expectation, by all means.

>[Soothing Skill Acquired]

◇

The next day, I'm going to accompany lady Sera to the orphanage in the morning, and visit the barrier pillar workshop in the afternoon.

Although there's a missionary purpose for doing the consolation visit to the orphanage, it's still called consolation visit, so the main objective is healing the children who are sicks with healing magic.

Our little girls are very popular here. Pochi and Arisa are particularly popular, strange plays, and learning cards are being spread around. I've warned Arisa to take care with the culture hazard for once, but it's all up to her for the self-restraint.

I'm not bringing Lulu and Nana today.
Since children don't hesitate to speak what they think, they will most likely say hurtful things to Lulu in barrage, so I leave her behind. The reason why I don't bring Nana is because she wants to take the young orga--children back home.

"Oh no! H, hero-sama is coming for consolation visit."
"Eeh! What should I do, maybe I should use some make-up."

The nursery workers, or rather, the onee-san staffs are getting excited. Wait, aren't you all married.

When the hero Hayato comes, the boys and the onee-san staffs follow him around. Putting aside the children, I'm envious of him being pampered by not only the beautiful women, but also the soothing staff members. Furthermore, before I knew it, the director's daughter who's unusually unapproachable has followed him too.

Dang you good-looking guy, go explode.

"Chevalier-sama, chevalier-sama, look at this~"
"Uina has made one too, look at this."

I'm being surround by groups of 5-6 years old little girls. They've made shell accessories I've taught before. Although they're rough, each of them has characteristics of their own, interesting.

Even though the hero is surrounded by beautiful women, I'm stuck babysitting the children, I can feel the gap in society.

Since my eyes met with hero's, I greeted him. I couldn't get away from the little girls, so we were slightly apart. For some reason, he looked awfully envious, I wonder why. It can't be, even if he's a lolicon, are these such young girls included on his targets? It can't be indeed.

About the trouble from lady Ringrande who saw me getting along with lady Sera during the consolation visit, since it's redundant, I'm omitting it.

◇

The visit to the barrier pillar workshop are only with my own companions that hasn't happened for awhile. The tour continues while I'm joining hands with Pochi and Tama. Barrier pillar seems to be a magic tool that's mainly for preventing monsters from invading villages. Its effect can reach 100 meters wide in radius with just one standing. However, since it's not a physical barrier, rampaging monsters, and monsters that are being chased by human can still pass over it, it seems.
The barrier pillar can function by absorbing mana from the earth vein, but since that'll wither the land, local spell-users supply the mana every few days instead.

The pillar is made of many magic cores, so there's some concern of thievery, but after it's erected on a land, it's casted with fixture magic, so it won't be easy to steal the pillar. Looks like even thieves who have attacked a village don't bother with the barrier pillar. It seems that the lord of the region will deploy their army for certain if anyone put their hands on the barrier pillar.

I wonder if the story is too difficult, Pochi and Tama have fallen asleep while holding both my hands, so I carry the two in corpse poses on both my arms, and continue the workshop tour. Liza offered to change for me, so I left the two to her along the way. They're cute when they're awake, but there are cuteness that are different than the usual when they're sleeping.

Peace is the best after all.

8-23. The Hero and Satou (2)

*

Satou's here. When I played fighting games, at first I was having fun with special attacks, but then I got gradually charmed with reading and creating combos.
Although as expected, I didn't think that the day where I would move like a fighting game character myself would come.

◇

"I'm coming for you, my honey!"

Hero Hayato opens the door and enters. Tama who's curling up on my lap is surprised and thrusts her claws on my lap. It's bit painful. Pochi, and Mia who are both on my sides harden.

Intruding the peaceful picture book reading time like this, what a troubling hero.

"What...the hell."

And, also, why are you in shock, hero Hayato.

Just what is he surprised about.

There's nothing particularly strange. Pochi had just pestered me to read her a picture book. I'm sitting down on a large sofa, and enjoying the afternoon in carefree after a long while. I'm wearing a refreshing tank-top and short-pants, but since this is a private room, there's nothing wrong about it.

Lulu, and Nana relaxing on the carpet below are wearing one piece that don't, although thin, expose their bodies. Liza was listening to me reading the picture book while calmly standing like meditating with her eyes closed. I can sense slight anger on her eyes. Liza unexpectedly likes to hear picture book reading after all. Is she angry because it's been disturbed?

Mia is scared of Hayato's eyes, she's slipping behind my chair, it's ticklish.

"Oh my, hero-sama, entering a room without even knocking like this, that's a bad manner you know?"

Even though Arisa is saying that in prim and proper manner, she's doing it while caressing my leg, it's a bit laughable. Geez, please stop with the sexual harassment while you're pretending to listen to the picture book.

"Let's fight Satou! You have angered me!"

The hero who screams with a face that looks as if it's crying blood gets pinned down by lady Ringrande and her group from behind.

Good grief, I don't understand what he's going on about.

◇

I change my clothes to easy-to-move knight clothes so as to keep me off from being impolite to princess Maryest, and go out. I don't intend to fight the hero in the least, but I cannot not go to where the hero and his companions are waiting.

"Are you really going to fight?"
"Of course not."

Lulu asked worryingly, I replied lightly.
Even if I fight, it'll only expose my true power, there's no advantage to it.

"You've come at last Satou!"

The hero who is being swarmed by big-breasted maid-san from the main building while shouldering Arondight is on the arbor of the courtyard.

"Let's have a fair fight!"
"I refuse."

The hero challenged me to a fight while pointing Arondight straight here, I flatly refused while smiling.
It seems the hero didn't expect that he'd be refused, he looked befuddled.
I'd like to ask him for an hour why he thought that I wouldn't refuse.

After all, even if we fight, there are only disadvantages for me right?

"Let's hear your reason."
"There's nothing for me to gain in the fight."
"Hee, you don't say that it's because you can't win huh."

The hero asked, and princess Maryest retorted.

"Of course, there's also the fact that there's no odds of me winning, but even if, by any chance, I win, there is no benefit for me. It's useless to fight right?"
"To cross swords with the hero, it's a very rare honor even in the empire you know?"

You really want me to fight the hero don't you?

"Please pass that honor to the knights, and people who fight in battle tournaments instead."
"You don't think that you will lose to Hayato either right?"
"Maryest-sama, that's an unreasonable thing to say. He's the hero-sama see? There is no way I can win against an existence that can match the demon lord."

I don't think I would definitely win against a veteran warrior in a straight swordsmanship fight, although it'd be a different story if it was an anything-goes fight. In fact, I had been ripped apart like getting checkmated in a chess match when I fought against elder Dohar, even if I was hiding my ability.

"Really? You're not harboring admiration, envy, jealousy, and also fear even when you're in front of an absolute strong. Am I wrong?"

I guess so.

"Oy Mary. Don't hinder my fight with difficult talks."
"Oh my, I'm sorry. This child's reaction is quite unusual, so I just inadvertently."

Now then, going back to the main problem, what should I do.

Come to think of it, Arisa sure is quiet.

"Gufufufu, 『Please don't fight for me』, what a delicious situation."

What are you saying in whisper.

"Alright, then let's do it like this. You're betting princess Arisa. As for me, I will grant you anything I can do."

Something big comes out.
Then, I'd like his ship.

"The dimensional warship, his holy sword, and his holy armor are the properties of the empire, so those are off-limits."

Princess Maryest firmly tells me as if she's read my mind. I've heard from baron Muno's long talk that the hero appears with a holy sword when he's summoned, I wonder if that's not true?

I can collect information as Nanashi, so I don't particularly need to do it as Satou. That's right, let's make him an insurance for the time where I alone am not sufficient. I can't cope if demon lords appear in two different locations at the same time after all.
Moreover, if I have some connection to Saga empire, I can take shelter there if I lose my place in Shiga kingdom.

◇

In the end, it's going to be with the hero and observers.

There were three conditions I gave him.

First, we're going to have the duel in a place where no one is watching.
Second, the hero is not going to use unique skills, or active battle skills.
Third, if Arisa's ownership is transferred to him, he has to give priority to Arisa's will when he's successfully released her from the geass.

However, since Maryest showed her disapproval, one person from each side was given permission to observe. Lady Ringrande wanted to come along too, but since various problems would arise if she saw the fight, she was prevented to.

I should have also followed the second condition by not using battle skills, but since Arisa insists that it's not fair, they let me use them.

The four of us have come to an abandoned arena under the duchy capital. I know this place from an acquaintance who lives in the underground passages, it seems to be a place where dark martial art tournament was being held until 100 years ago.

Princess Maryest uses light magic to illuminate the room.
It's 10 meters high, and there are around 20 meters wide in radius. Since that also includes audience seats, the actual fighting location is smaller.

I asked Arisa about her true intention before we got here, and she said that I should deepen my friendship with the hero without going overboard, and exchange information. I felt that the distance between Arisa and the hero was quite enough already, but I wasn't moved even though I was entreated, yet when Arisa was being secretive like this, she would only get worse, so I accepted her reasoning.
<TLN: This is a jumbled mess even in the original raw, basically Satou doesn't believe that's all there is to Arisa's intention, but he's not going to press further since it'll only get worse if he does when she's like that.>

The [Don't go overboard] part is difficult since the opponent is the hero, but since it's not a serious fight, it'll probably be fine as long as I don't use weapons from my storage, don't hit him with intermediate magic, and don't use my bare hands to block his sword.

"Looks like it's fine to have a somewhat showy fight if it's here."

I've changed to white leather armor before we come here.

"I'll properly stop before hitting, so don't worry."
"Yes, I trust you."

Even though I replied out of courtesy, who would believe you when you have that carnivorous expression.

"Here-sama, this is not a serious battle you know. You lose if your opponent dies. I will go after Satou-sama if that happen."
"Umu, I'm good at holding back, leave it to me."

Arisa gives him a stern warning, but it's questionable if he really understands when he's fawning over her like that.

"There are three matches, winning two matches means victory."

Princess Maryest tells the victory condition.

"It's forbidden to lose on purpose alright!"
"But of course, my honey. Let's build a white house in the imperial capital when we get married. We'll keep a big dog at the garden."

Arisa was probably speaking to me, but Hayato who misunderstood had begun to talk about something. His taste is unexpectedly girlish.

"You really~ must not hold back okay! Please remember that, not only me, Lulu would also be gone!"

Arisa reminds me again in low voice.
I don't understand what kind of reasoning is that, but even if she doesn't mention Lulu, I don't have any intention of handing Arisa over. If Arisa truly wish for it, then I'll send her off with a smile, but if that's not the case, then she should be beside me.

"It's alright."

I nod to Arisa who looks really anxious. However, she's someone who doesn't have confidence in strange places.

◇

The hero is prohibited to use not only unique skills, but also active skills huh. I guess I should turn off the menu to make this fair. Even if I turn OFF the menu, the last setting of companion column seems to be kept anyway, alright then.

I turn OFF the menu after a long while.

The view is wide.

I'm with the fairy sword, Hayato's with a holy sword. I want to tell the hero to restrain himself, but he replies back saying that it's easier to stop before hitting with a sword that he's used to, I don't answer back.

"On your positions, the match begins when this coin touches the ground!"

Arisa flips a coin above.

I've learned various things after the fight with the demon lord.

The eyes movements.

The position of the center of gravity of the body.

The slight change in silhouettes reflecting from the movement of muscles.

And also the breathing--

I dive under Arondight's tip, and thrust the fairy sword toward his heart.

The match is concluded before the the sounds from the coin that's hitting

the ground stops.

"First match, Satou's victory♪"

Oy, umpire.

"What are you doing Hayato! Even though he didn't move that fast, you let him win on purpose, you're being rude to your opponent."

Princess Maryest is scolding Hayato from the outfield, but it doesn't seem like it reaches his ears.

"This is surprising, was that really a level 30 movements?"

More than the hero, I'm surprised at my own movements myself. My body feels lighter than usual. As if I've switched something on, I feel that informations are entering me vividly to the point of being surprising.

The trajectory and timing of the hero's Arondight's blow were in accordance with my expectation. I've understood Hayato's habit after seeing his fight with the yellow-skinned demon, but more than that, I can predict his movement as if reading the future.

In order to confirm that sensation, I fight on the second match.

I avoid the horizontal slash by swaying back at minimum.

The sword is coming back abnormally fast, I block it with the guard on the reverse side of my hand that holds my sword.

When I show an opening for a very little bit, the hero kicks toward my side abdomen

I predict it, handle it, and purposely receive the attack while breaking the opponent's balance.

It feels like when I fought a strong player in a fighting game. I want to fight with elder Dohar again. I should be able to fight decently without feeling like I'm being led by the nose this time.

More, and more.

The tip of the sword swing for a bit before it's swung, the subtle difference in the gripping power of the sword's handle, there are information everywhere.

I relish every corner of my body during the fight with the hero.

And--

The fun time is over all too soon.

>[Foreseeing: Anti-Personnel Battle Skill Acquired]

>Title [Sword Dancer] Acquired

8-24. The Hero and Satou (3)

*

Satou's here. Wedding is a joyous moment. Regardless of anyone, it's a joyous moment. My wallet might become a tiny bit desolate for the congratulatory gifts, but it's a joyous moment. That's why, please, spare me from three weddings and more in one month, Satou's here.

◇

"Even if I didn't use active skills, I didn't think that I would lose five times in a row."
"You were able to win in the end weren't you."
"That's cause I wouldn't be able to show my face in front of my companions if it was a complete defeat."

The hero who's slumping on the ground on all fours is restarting himself.

The fight was supposed to end after the first two, but we got too absorbed, we fought for many times consecutively. It was because the hero started saying, "One more fight.", when he was defeated for the second time in a row.
Thanks to it, I acquired [Foreseeing: Inter-Personal Battle] skill, but I might have gone overboard.
Maybe because he couldn't use his usual battle-related skills, the hero was full of subtle opening during the battle, so it was easy with the Foreseeing.

I peel off Arisa who's been hugging my shoulder and repeatedly poking my cheek while I'm sitting. "Ehehe~ You didn't want to let go of me so much you forgot yourself~", she said. For both our sakes, I won't tell her

the truth.

The hero is talking about something to princess Maryest, but then she goes back ahead of us toward the underground passage. Since the white crocodile has become a landmark, she probably won't lose her way.

"Geez, even though you didn't move that fast, you foresaw all of my attacks--and so, are you a transported, or a reincarnated person? You used a unique skill of continuous movement earlier right?"

The hero asks with confidence.

"No,--"
"Ah, it's not like the matches' result is annulled y'know."

I wanted to deny since it was a groundless claim, but the hero held back my hand.
That's right, there's no other people here anyway, I guess I should exchange information with each other. The hero probably sent princess Maryest back first since he wanted to do that.

I told him about how I wasn't sure if I was a transported or a reincarnated person myself, the possibility that the memory just before and after I got transported to this world was missing, and various details about how I met Arisa and the others. Of course I didn't talk about my unique skills, the matter about meteor shower, and level.

"Satou, do you know about a kingdom called Rumooku?"
"Yes, I have an acquaintance from that kingdom."
"Is that so, you might have been summoned by that kingdom."

From the hero's story, the empire sent an earskin spy who had infiltrated there and confirmed that the kingdom summoned 7-8 other worlders.

The third person who should have been dead was also under the spy's care.
After he was saved, he did intelligence works with the spy for several months, but when the spy was going to take him along to the Saga empire, he went missing. They've confirmed that he didn't have special power when they were together, so the empire didn't even deploy something like a pursuit team. He also ran away right after he was summoned, what a self-reliance guy.

We've exchanged various information, but excluding trivial things, most of it are the things I've said earlier. Of course it's not like there's no benefit to this. After Arisa slightly pesters the hero, he's going to give us advanced magic books, with the exception of forbidden and tactical magic that are matters of national defense. Since they're made by manual writings, it'll take at least half a year at the soonest.
Moreover, he's also going to arrange a pass to Saga empire, and a written guarantee of Saga empire embassy for us.

These looks useful for when we're sightseeing on Saga empire in the future.

Oh right, I make him to promise with [Hero's Vow] to keep the matter about me being an other worlder a secret. I don't know how much I can trust him, but since other worlders are seemingly decent enough, it probably won't become a big problem. Also, the hero seems to be convinced from my stories that I am the eighth person from Rumooku kingdom.

"There is this the absurd beautiful girl before, and there's this boy, these two have made me realize that there are still strong people out there. Just level isn't everything huh."

My ears hurt from the hero's words.
However, seeing how the words don't seem to have any sarcasm, he

doesn't seem to think that that was me. However, beautiful girl he said, I didn't disguise myself as a woman in particular, and I didn't show my face either, so where did that [Beautiful] came from.

"Beautiful girl?"
"Yeah, it was a monstrous fellow who mowed down the great fish that appeared in the duchy capital's sky with a single beam, and toyed around with an upper demon like it was a child. Since she had a violet hair, she was probably a reincarnated person."
"Oh my, that's really amazing huh."

Arisa, your prim and proper way of speaking is disturbed y'know.

Apparently, the hero suspects that the masked hero is Arisa. The violet hair certainly matches, and Arisa is hiding her unique skill from the hero. So it's not strange if the hero thinks that she has a unique skill that lets her change into adult form. It can't be helped if he misunderstands.
It seems that he doesn't think that I'm Nanashi at all. I'm really glad that I changed my way of talking. Yup, let's decide that it's a good thing.

Just in case, I try confirming something with the hero, it seems that a reincarnated person doesn't always have violet hair, but a reincarnated person who has violet hair is sure to have unique skills.

Arisa turns her face to me with a swoosh. Even though she moves like Pochi, it feels more like a horror rather than looking cute.
She speaks only with her lips without voice, "It's you right?", as she asks, I nod.

"Was it, by any chance, your favorite type?"
"I couldn't see her face, but she was 15 years old. If she was five years younger, it might've been dangerous."

Spare me from BL!

Let's stop using that masked hero way of speaking in the future.
Arisa is shaking a little. She's probably enduring from laughing out loud, but it'll expose me to the hero, so please do stop it.
Later, when we're practicing at night, Arisa bursts out laughing until she runs out of breath after she hears about the details of the beautiful girl.
I'll make better upright clothes later. I promise so in my heart.
Later, I'm almost made to wear woman's clothes, but that alone, I refuse firmly.

"Putting love things aside, I want to meet her once again. I forgot to say thanks to that fellow for saving my life, and protecting the reputation of hero. My principle is to give back debt as soon as possible after all."

Well now? He certainly said, "I won't say thanks" though. Was that about me reducing the demon's health?

He also wanted to apologize for the rudeness of his companions. Did the hero's companions do anything rude to me? I don't remember any, but I can just ask about it when I'm back to the masked hero mode.

Since the hero party are going to stay until the duke's grandson's marriage, I guess I'll go once until then.

◇

"Beautiful~""Nanodesu!"
"White dress."
"Wonderful right~ white dress are better than kimono for wedding after all~"
"Master, I wish to reproduce the flower decorations that are on the bride."
"Quite a gorgeous parade this is."

"She looks very happy. I want to be like that bride."

After the wedding of the duke's grandson, lady Ringrande's little brother, is over, they're debuting to the commoners on a parade. Since the parade is going to pass through the road exactly in front of the mansion we're staying, everyone is lined up while watching the parade.
Lady Karina is attending the wedding with her little brother, so she's not here. I feel that the little brother has been accompanying lady Karina quite often recently. He's probably a siscon.

Pochi and Tama are in high tensions, I guess they're charmed by the wedding dress even though they're still kids. Tama has climbed on top of my head, and Pochi is flaying around her arm while grasping my sleeves. Mia is copying Tama, but since it's dangerous, I catch her midway, and let her getting carried by me on my back. Liza is the only calm one, but she's intensely watching the bride, so it's not like she's not interested.

"Chevalier-sama, a messenger of viscount Shimen has come."
"Ah, I'll go soon."

I am guided by the mansion maid to meet the visitor. I've checked on the map earlier, the visitor is Natarina-san from the scroll workshop. The ordered scrolls have most likely been completed.

"Then, these are the requested items."

I fully paid the scrolls I ordered at the beginning that had been completed faster than scheduled.

"I gratefully accept. Right, the variation of Magick Sword we've talked about before is complete."
"Is that true? It hasn't even been three days since we talked you know?"

It's a new magic that comes upon me when I was watching Claiomh

Solais' movements. Fighting while magick swords are flying independently. There's already an auto-moving magic, [Nature Magic: Dancing Blade], so it was easier to make than expected.

I ordered several more original magic, and magic that aren't available in scrolls for sale. Of course, I pay the advance payment in cash.
I'm told that they can only make 3-5 scrolls in a month, so it's going to be close to when I'm about to return from Bornean forest, and thus we're going to hire a trusted trading company to transport them.

Since I can visit them alone anytime with Sky Drive, it's fine.

◇

I'm providing the dishes for the wedding reception tonight. I somehow feel like a servant of the duke, but it's not all bad.

"Heya, Sir Pendragon, I've made the rounds in hurry to come and eat your dishes."
"You too eh earl Houen, I'm also crazy with the shrimp tempura."
"Marquis Lloyd, the red pickled gingers are surely easier to eat than the tempura."

Just like that, I was able to talk freely with relatively upper ranked nobles. I don't intend to be successful as a noble, but it's a good thing to have someone to rely on if anything happens. The demerits are the troublesome adults who occasionally asks me to marry girls of primary and middle school ages. Most of them pulled back when I said that I had a fiancee, but sometimes there are persistent ones that were troubling.

Several nobles show their consent to invest and send exchange students to Muno city, so consul Nina can probably feel relieved.

However, even though I've refused Nina-san's letter, I end up going by her plan. It's mysterious.

"Chevalier-sama, what are today's snacks? I'm looking forward to it."
"Even though Muno roll is delicious, crepes is the best."
"To celebrate Tisrad-sama's occassion, I have prepared a special dish."
"My, I look forward to it."
"Yes, it's something to look forward to."

Recently, I've made more beautiful women acquaintances, not only girls. It's sad that most of them are married, but there's no problem to enjoy the love (bad) from afar right.
The sweets today is a lulu fruits and strawberries hall cake. I was finally able to bake sponge cake the other day, so I've made an extraordinarily big hall cake for this wedding.

I feel that this is a culture hazard, but when I see the dishes on Gugurian and duchy capital, it's probably only a matter of time for the dishes I make, so I present it without worry. Arisa didn't stop me too, but it must be because she had lost to her appetite. However, it might have been better if I hold back with the mayonaise and the fresh cream. I'm afraid that a lot of people might become plump.

I treated everyone in the mansion with the strawberry cake trial-runs, but it became a grand outbreak that does not only involve the youth tropes, but also Lulu and the maids. In the end, I baked the cake until everyone was satisfied. One person probably ate one hall cake I wonder. In addition, Arisa and me got only one slice. Diet is a severe and drawn-out fight.

"Aah, the bitterness from the cake that I couldn't eat myself won't disappear~ It was hard for an unmarried woman past thirty to celebrate her own birthday with a convenient store cake."

A, Arisa, please stop with the realistic sob story. I'll let you eat as much as you want when the diet is over, please endure it firmly for now.

"Pay attention everyone! To commemorate the wedding of Tisrad-sama and Miniem-sama, proudly coming from baron Muno territory, Sir Pendragon the miracle chef presents the lost dish from the era of ancestor king Yamato-sama! The entrance of the wedding cake!"

I'm already accustomed to being called miracle chef. They will probably forget about it soon after I leave the duchy capital.

The maids carry the four columns of the cake from the carriage. The cake is deliberately wrapped with cloth on the outside to instill special feeling. Of course it was Arisa's idea.

"Well then, the bride and groom will cut the cake together!"

Even though the the people here are awfully excited, Arisa is strangely depressed.

"Ah, even in this world, I'm on the side of the people who congratulate these wedding couple huh."
"Mou, oh Arisa, didn't you say that you'd get master to do it in 10 years."
"T, that's right. Alright, I'll polish myself hard to become a woman!"

Lulu cheers her up until she's revived, but you shouldn't rouse her that far. So maiden-like.

Unrelated with Arisa's determination, fireworks color the sky while matching the couple cut the cake. It's a grand fireworks magic by fire and light magicians groups lead by viscount Shimen.

Not only the newlyweds, couples that are on this wedding hall are joining their shoulders together while gazing ecstatically at the fleeting lights of

the large flowers that illuminate the sky.

Pestered by Pochi and Tama who have seen this fireworks, that night I show them various fireworks in the garden of the mansion.

Not long after that, I make a set of firework magic tools.

8-25. Parting at Duchy Capital Night

*

Satou's here. Infiltrating the enemy camp to save your friends and lover who have been caught. It's a classic scene in movies, but it's something that doesn't quite happen in real life. However, looks like it's common in the other world...

◇

"Hufh, it's karaage af-ter-a-long-while."
"Yay~?" "Karaage nanodesu~"

Arisa is delighted to see karaage on her own plate.
She was also prohibited to eat deep fried food for the past one week after all. I forgot Arisa's age, so the diet was too effective, thus I changed the plan to only forbid her on snacking, and overeating. Of course, I did not tell Arisa about the miscalculation. I only told her that I'd make it laxer.

Mia's shares are seasoned rice in a bamboo shoot and boiled vegetables. Even though the bamboo shoot looks like a green bamboo, it can be eaten like a normal bamboo shoot, it's a fantasy ingredient. I'd have liked if I don't have to peel it, but it wasn't quite that lenient.

"Euh? What's this karaage? It's not a chicken, nor a pork. I think I've eaten this before, but I can't remember~."

When Arisa is still chewing one piece of the karaage, the three beastkin girls ask for more, so I take out the [Whale] karaage from the heating magic tool and put it on the platter.

I have a lot, so eat as much as you like.

It was outside of my calculation to have that much. Considering where it comes from, it's not like I cannot hold a whale meat festival carefreely, but it'll be a waste.

If I had just acquired it sooner, I could bring it to baron Muno territory via transporter, but the food situation in the territory has already been improved. Or I should say arranged instead I guess.

During the tea parties, the chattering noble women told me about nobles who were troubled as to where they could direct those kind of items. Thanks to that, I procured things like old rice, dried fish, and pickled vegetables in large quantities cheaply. They're currently being transported to baron Muno territory. I've hired guards to escort them due to the sheer quantities. Since they're introduced by the viscount Shimen, an influential man in the duchy capital, they must be reliable.

Let's return to the topic.
While Arisa continues chewing, she finally remembers what the meat is made from.

"I know, it's whale right!"

As expected of Arisa.

"They came out as Yamatoni, or Tatsutaage during lunch a long time ago~ but, you did well to get something like whale meat."
"Yeah, the goods arrived just at the right time."

Yes, Arisa didn't see the great monstrous fish. Therefore, she doesn't notice that great monstrous fish = whale. There's this words of wisdom that says ignorance is a bliss.

"Hamburg steak is the strongest, but whale karaage is eveen stronger nodesu!"
"Delish~"

Tama wolfs down the karaage while doing impression like a Nagoya person. I'm glad that it's to their liking.

"Master, isn't this meat something that's quite expensive? I feel like my power swells up every time I bite it."

I wonder. I didn't experience such thing when I food-tasted it in advance for poison before, but that might be Liza's expression for the deliciousness.

"Every biteful~""The meat is pulsing nanodesu."

Un, Pochi. I understand, that you like it, but eat it calmly. Please don't say scary things like pulsing meat.
You made me remember meat-man that came out in an old game.

"It's truly delicious. Pochi, Tama, I have reserved that karaage. Be content with the karaage on the forks on both of your hands. Ah, Nana, don't eat it so off-handedly, savor the taste more. Lulu, don't be so modest, eat more."

And also Liza, calm down.

Everyone asks for second helping so much, they can't eat calmly. It might have been a mistake to take the karaage out of the heating magic tool to the large platter.

Seasoned bamboo shoot rice and whale karaage go well together, but I should prohibit it.

"Uuu, Satou."

I have to promise the sulking Mia a new sweets, but well it can't be helped. I should invent more food other than meat.

I thought of treating lady Karina and her maids too, but they were out for the promise with the little brother-kun.
We're planning to depart from the duchy capital in the morning of the day after tomorrow, so I guess I should make a bit of feast for tomorrow night.

◇

The last day of the dark auction is wrapped in bizarre enthusiasm.

The princess of the fallen kingdom is going to be exhibited today, that might be the reason. I feel like this world have poisoned me a bit as I have become someone who can plainly accept the fact that people are being sold like commodities.

This auction hall is as large as a theater hall, the first floor is filled with seats for general bidders, while the second floor has box seats-like seats for nobles. Since the agent man from before has secured one seat on the noble seating in consideration of me, this time I can bid the exhibited items relaxedly. As expected, the people who work as agents are nicely attentive. They'd make me misunderstand like I'm a VIP if they gave me such service.

The first exhibition was for my casted magic sword, and it was immediately won. I tried to offer 10 set of it in jest, but they were all sold just like that. The one who's bought it is the military accountant that has requested it. The casted magic swords have the name Nanashi

inscriptions just like before. The swords are sharp-pointed one-handed swords, which are the most popular form in the duchy capital.

Actually, there aren't only these 10 casted magic swords, I have scattered another 10 to be exhibited. It's not only swords, I've also mixed in Magic Halberds among them. I've added it since there's this person who lost the bidding against the military accountant before. I also made three times more the same kind medicines as before to be exhibited here.

Since the agent is excellent, they're probably going to be sold out soon.

There's a rare item called [Gift Orb] being exhibited.

It seems like it can give the user a skill. The one being exhibited now is the [Fire Magic Skill Gift Orb]. After some fierce competition, it was sold for 200 gold coins.

According to the agent's story, Gift Orbs always gets sold at high price. They comes from the labyrinth city, and only five of them appear in the market in a year it seems. Looks like Gift Orbs that are not used for 10 years will lose their effects.

I ask the agent if there's anyone who has Chanting skill Gift Orb, but he doesn't seem to know. It'd be troublesome if he became suspicious, so I didn't ask about [Chanting] in pinpoint. I asked about 5-6 skills.

The bidding for [Aerodynamic Engine of Airship] is unexpectedly unpopular.

Calling it match-fixing would be bad, but it seemed that it was arranged for the powerful nobles who wanted this kind of item.

Of course I also didn't bid.

When I was visiting the airship garage at the duke castle, the factory manager whom I became acquainted with told me that they will be servicing a broken air power engine in a few days, so he was currently in break. It's most likely this one. I'm going to prepare for departure tomorrow, but I'll go there and ask if I can see the exposed parts of the engine.

The thing that I wanted the most [Research Book of Ancient Language] turned out to be something that went way over my expectation.

However I look at it, it looks like a half-size note book. It's probably a belonging of a transported person. I had told the agent that I would bid up to 40 gold coins, but I raised the limit until 300 gold coins. With this, I'll cry if the note contains things like self-poetries, or grudge notes.

Thanks to a guy who competed desperately, the price was raised too much. I could have easily bought it for 10 gold coins if that guy wasn't here, but he opened the bid with 114 gold coins outright.

The agent told me the bidder, so I looked at him, turned out it was an acquaintance.
The heck are you doing hero.

I had prepared myself to compete with the hero again for the next item, [An Unknown Black Plank], but since he didn't bid for it for some reason, I was able to buy [Smartphone] for 23 gold coins. I've never seen the phone, and it also has unfamiliar maker, but it's probably a smartphone. I wonder if the battery is drained, the electricity doesn't run even after I've pushed the switch.

It's probably something that the human who has [Research Book of Ancient Language] kept. I asked the agent if they could sell me the way they obtained the items. I set the upper limit of the information to be 10 gold coins.

◇

And then, the [Princess of Fallen Kingdom] is exhibited. It's a 9 years old girl who's completely white.

Tama is cuter, but this girl is quite cute too.
She's a former princess of white-haired tigerkin. That reminds me, the tigerkin kingdom was invaded by the weaselkin kingdom wasn't it.

I finally understand now.

This is the reason why several beastkin people are gathering in the sewers since a while ago, they're going to infiltrate this hall. Looks like some of them are infiltrating from the ventilation duct. There's no one who guards that place so it's fine, but the operation will be blown if anyone sees them. I secretly push back a squirrelkin girl who's broken her balance and is going to fall with [Magic Hand].

The bidding is getting heated, it's been raised until 120 gold coins. Both bidders are humans. One is a noble from the duchy capital, but the other is a noble from a kingdom I've never heard. The former is easy to understand from his lustful expression, but the latter has bloodshot eyes that are scary. Looks like he has some kind of grudges.

I feel the presence of magic, so I look over the location where it comes from, there's a man who produces a black ball. Apparently, that ball is going to erase the illumination in this room.

A voice shouts out "Fire!" with a cliché voice from the direction of east exit and come the white smoke. When the panic is building up, the light

disappear, and the rescue team that has infiltrated from the sewer saves the tiger princess.

Nice~ I feel like seeing some kind of movie.

Since it seems like they'll be surrounded by the guarding soldiers, I secretly give them helps them with [Magic hand] under the cover of the darkness. Since the foreign noble from earlier had started to chant Firebolt magic, I used [Magic Hand] to make him faint with a suitable-looking jar. What a dangerous guy.

I invoked [Clairhearing] beside the tiger princess, so I could hear various things.

>[White-tigerkin Language Skill Acquired]

Oops, they're conversing in their native language huh. I allocate a bit of points to it. It'll be fine to just complement the small nuances in my brain.

『Princess Runya, I've come for you.』
『Galgaoron-sama, I believed that you would surely came to help me.』
『Gal-aniki, we should escape soon.』
『That's right, leaving aside the weaselkins, we absolutely won't be able to escape if the duke guards come.』
『Alright, let's pull back!』
『『Ou!』』

Since the voice sounds familiar, I look at them in darkness, they're faces that I know after all. It's the white tiger-kun and his follower from that time. Even though he's someone who rescues a little girl, he's also kicking sea lion-kin children huh. I intended to help their escape, but that has disappeared somehow. Do your best for the rest.

When I heard about it later, some tigerkins lost their lives to the pursuit force, but it seems that the tiger princess has safely escaped. I'm not that interested with them, but I check the map in order to avoid getting involved, they're moving through the forest toward the royal capital of Shiga kingdom, not the tigerkin country. They're probably going for the self-dominion of beastkin. Since they're going to the opposite direction to where we're going, we won't meet them again.

Actually, a human former princess was going to be exhibited after the tiger princess.

However, since the auction was suspended due to this disturbance, she was entrusted to the duke's house by the duke's recommendation. I'm not privy of the detail, but she seems to be an illegitimate princess of the kingdom where the fiance of princess Menea comes from.

Now, then, after earning abnormal amount of income, and shake off the ones tailing me, let's go on a stroll on the night town.
I have no ulterior motives, I'm just going on a stroll.

Even though I returned with candy set as souvenirs, I got accused of playing around at night for some reason.

8-26. Parting at Duchy Capital Night (2)

*

Satou's here. I'm reminded of my graduation when I hear the word departure. I don't make a connection between departure and final farewell, maybe because I come from a world where it doesn't even take 2-3 days to meet people on the other side of the planet. Is it a bit heavier on the other world?

◇

The result of the dark auction last night is better than I've thought.

The cast magic swords were sold at the expected prices, but the cast magic spear, and the cast magic halberd were all sold at quite high prices. The cast magic spear particularly, due to the bidding fight between a man who looked like an explorer, and another man who was wearing an elegant armor, it was sold for 270 gold coins. I wonder if the added paralysis effect from the electricity was the cause of this success. I probably shouldn't think about the cost.

Since I had gained more profit than I expected, I decided to donate 10 gold coins for the Tenion emergency food distribution and the orphanage each. Since more than this would be out of common sense, I restrained myself.

About the note book that I've won, the other half of its inside is torn in two. Furthermore, it looks like the one who's written this note book is a cautious guy, it's written in original cipher. When I was deciphering it, I acquired [Decryption] skill, so I solved it easily.

The way to make soap, the way to make glass and mirror, the way to

make gum, etc....
Various technologies that look like it'll be useful for someone who has just arrived in another world are written in the note book. However, I can already make most of them, unfortunately. If only I got it earlier.

The lucky find is his curry recipe. There's also the method to create spice written. The problem is if I can find the spice or not. Since there are even ways to create soba and udon, this might be a bargain.

Unfortunately, there is no information about the owner.
I think it's the third person that hero Hayato's mentioned, since he's a shrewd guy, let's pray that he's currently enjoying the other world life.

◇

"Good evening, hero Hayato."

I visit the hero's room in Nanashi mode wearing slightly modest clothes in the night before the hero party departs from the duchy capital. Since some members of his party have good noses like Pochi and the other, I've used [Deodorant] magic.

"Nanashi huh, how did you infiltrate here?"
"With cheat."

It's a convenient word.

Right after I entered the room from the window, the earkin girls who seemed to be the hero's companions suddenly apologized. Since forgiving them like that was 'that', I was allowed to touch the girls' ears as the compensation. Un, it's quite nice.

Afterward, the hero thanked me.
He said the same thing he did when I was Satou, but when he said, 'want to feel my ears as a thank?', I involuntarily dropped my fist on the hero's head.
I thought that lady Ringrande, and princess Maryest would complain since I hit the hero, but it seems that he was usually dealt like that anyway, so everyone looked like they thought it was a matter of course. Princess Maryest even told me not to go easy on him. Is it fine hero.

When he offered some kind of item as a reward, I told him I wanted an Aerodynamic Engine in a jest since I didn't need anything particular, but the hero tried to hurriedly take out the aerodynamic engine of his ship which seemed to be called Jules Verne. Since I had planned to create the aerodynamic engine myself, I declined the rare offer. Princess Maryest looked obviously relieved, the engine was probably quite precious.

In the end, it was decided that the hero is going to give me various rare metal like mithril, and orichalcum. He got them from the inside of the labyrinth, but since he loaned them to the empire's arsenal, he didn't have any in hand.
Orichalcum makes my heart feels excited, although I'll only get it later.

Oops, I forgot the main reason I came here.

"This is?"
"I guess you've never seen one? It's a magic tool that can change a person into a demon you know."

I took out a short horn from the Storage and threw it to the hero. It's the one from the demon that came out in Gururian city.

"What did you say?!"
"W, where did you get this!?"

The former is princess Maryest, and the later is lady Ringrande. By the look of her expression and words, apparently, lady Ringrande has heard the thing about the short horn from the duke. Since the demons have been subjugated in various cities of the duchy, there's no way that people who are related to the duke don't know.

"Did you know about it? Ringrande."
"I'm sorry, since I learned it as a young woman of the duke family, I couldn't disclose it."

What a weirdly stiff person. Although the duke probably couldn't openly declare it due to his position, I think he leaked it to her so she could tell the hero.

"Hey, onee-san. Is this short horn unusual?"
"Yes, this is the first time I've seen it. Even in the long history of Saga empire's fights with the demon, this item never appears even once."

It's a new item huh.

"I obtained it when I defeated a lower demon in another territory. Looks like it can't be used anymore, so I'll give it if you want, you know?"

While thanking me, princess Maryest timidly receives the short horn, and gets it stored in the hero's infinite stowing (Inventory). Although it might not be needed since she looks like someone with a good head, I give her a firm warning, "Handle it carefully okay."

Due to this item, I'm made to hold a magic tool that can be used to communicate with each other. Looks like he's been intending to give it to me from the beginning, the tool is quickly taken out of the hero's inventory. I don't have particular problem with it, so we decide to activate the communication together at 0 hour late at night every 10 days to keep in touch with each other. Since I only have hour hand to check on time,

they give me clock magic tool.
This is something that I know later on, but the time on this clock went out of order when I put it in the Storage, so I left it to tick in the Item Box.

I'm worried if it has a tracking function, but it seems that it can't tell location beside at the time where I activate the communication. Since it's used to contact spies who infiltrate another countries, it's made to be undetectable beside at the time of communication. I want to dismantle it for a bit, but let's restrain myself.

◇

I'm unexpectedly free the day before the departure.
Since I was doing things like going around greeting my acquaintances, and buying ingredients, and flavoring--particularly sugar--little by little everyday, there is nothing left that need to be done in a hurry.

Everyone has been finished getting baptized in the Tenion temple this morning.

>[Holy Magic: Tenion Belief Skill Acquired]

This is for the sake of the revival ceremony by the head miko-san in case of emergency.
For some reason, Arisa and me were the only two who didn't get baptized. We did receive the ceremony itself, but we didn't get the [Believer of Tenion] title like everyone else.

Although it seemed that no one around me knew about it, lady Sera said, "With this, Satou-san is also a believer of Tenion.", while looking very happy.

"Satou-san, please accept this."

Lady Sera handed me an item called [Tenion's Bell]. After deciphering the item explanation, it seems to [Resonate with the big bell on Tenion temple]. Apparently, the big bell in Tenion temple rings when an emergency happens. This bell is a magic tool that can resonate with the big bell, it can sense the danger even if they're separated with the distance between the royal capital and the duchy capital.

Looks like it only acts as the receptor.

"Look, I have it too. We have a matching pair right."
"That's right."

I cannot reject lady Sera who's genuinely happy, I take it obediently.
It's probably, or rather, it's 9 out 10 that it was instigated by the head miko-san, but I still wore the bell.

◇

When we've returned to the mansion after the baptism, some visitors are waiting.
It's the next baron Muno, the little brother-kun of lady Karina. He doesn't have an appointment, but he's the young lord of my employer after all, I guess it's fine.

"Sir Pendragon, please forgive me for intruding suddenly."
"Young lord is always welcome to visit me."

I'm going to the (airship) garage in the noon, so let's finish this quickly.

"Let's hear it frankly then. Do you have any intention of marrying Karina-

neesan?"
"I do not."

Oops, I should have been a bit more indirect.
The little brother-kun is angry with red face.

"Are you throwing away my big sister after you've done playing around with her! Just because you're a direct retainer of father--"
"It's a misunderstanding."

Although it's rather rude of me, I cover the words of the enraged little brother-kun with another.

"I'll say this again, it's a misunderstanding. Karina-sama and me are not in a relationship you know?"
"However, weren't you two getting along well like a couple during the banquet at Gururian city!"

The way he says it as if it's be better if we don't get along. You siscon.

"The viceroy had sent invitations for both Karina-sama, and me to attend the banquet. Since we both didn't have a partner, I went together with Karina-sama."

Thanks to that, I had to shell out some big expenses, but since I was able to see the volume and the valley, I don't have any regret. That was a good scenery.

"Orion! What are you doing exactly!"

Ah, even though I purposely didn't call his name. Lady Karina, you're heartless.
The little brother-kun's name is Orion Muno. He's the victim of baron Muno's hero hobby like me. Well, I chose it myself in my case, so victim

isn't quite right.

Now then, I guess I should work out the misunderstanding.

"Karina-sama."
"What is it?"

Karina-sama replies with a slight caution.

"Do you like me?"
"Na, wha, that--"
"Aneue?" <TLN: Something like, "esteemed older sister.">
"T, there's no way that's true! Thing like me liking Satou, there is absolutely no way that can happen!"

So it's true, this type does self-destruct if openly confronted. I was slightly troubled in case she answered "Yes", but I wouldn't be this cold-hearted if she was that sweet.

"Orion-sama, as you can see, the rumor about us being lovers is groundless. Karina-sama is more suited to a young man from old and honorable lines of a great noble."
"U, umu, I'm glad that you know your place as a chevalier. Please take care of me from now on."
"Yes, likewise."

In other word, Orion-kun probably came to warn an upstart noble that he was not a match for his relative. I pray that it's not aggravated by the siscon. This Orion-kun seems to be engaged with the duke's daughter who has different mother than lady Ringrande and Sera. Since the partner is still 7 years old, the marriage is still a talk for the future.

◇

I visited the duke airship garage in the afternoon since they were going to dismantle the previously-mentioned aerodynamic engine.

When I was going to the garage, I looked for the moving person in the painting before, but I couldn't see it since the hanged paintings had changed, I wondered if they're rotating it everyday. I asked a maid-san who were taking care of other artworks, but she said that she didn't know such painting while looking at me dubiously. That reminds me, when I talked about it during the tea party back then they thought I was just boasting. I wonder if I was half-asleep and was mistaken. It's a mysterious story.

There were unusually lot of people in the garage, so I couldn't see the engine closely. It couldn't be helped, so I moved away for a bit and used [Distance View] to inspect the engine. The aerodynamic engine was like an air cooling radiator with many fins.

Looks like the fin parts are made from Air Fish's materials. It seems the fin gains buoyancy by sending magic through the air.
Since it doesn't look like how hot-air balloons work, the mechanism doesn't follow the law of physic that I know.

When I check my storage, several parasites that crippled the prince have parts that can be made into fins on them, so I dive to the labyrinth late at night, and dismantle them. Since they can't be used as is, I'll process them along the way to Bornean forest.

I had materials from the land reclamation back then, so I made an ark that could even hold the wagon. I intend to put the aerodynamic engine in this ark. I might possibly carry it with [Magic Hand] until the completion of the aerodynamic engine.

However, I guess this is the last time I can use this place. Since it's truly convenient, I'd even like to settle down in the duchy capital.

◇

Next morning, the previous earl couple with all their employees sent us off as we departed from the duchy capital.

Lady Karina had also wanted to tag along, but since I left her with the large amount of documents and letters for Nina-san, she reluctantly agreed to go back to baron Muno territory. There are collections of recipes for Gelt-san in Muno city among the documents. Since I had sent the necessary ingredients in advance, it's probably alright.
I also entrusted cast magic swords for sir Zotor, and Hauto. Since I made it with fluid control magic that I had acquired, their structures are completely different than the ones I sold in the dark auction. The outer appearances of the swords are rounded like the ones I've made for Pochi and the others as their peculiar characteristics. I wonder if you can imagine it if I say that they look like sword-length stretched rice spoons? I've made the sword's tip looks like a sharpened reverse R for stabbing. They have Satou Pendragon inscriptions, not Nanashi.
Also, I secretly give the maid manager, Pina, the traveling expense for their trip back. I heard remarks that young unmarried women shouldn't do like getting spared from sleeping in the barn since they were working as merchants' escorts during the long journey, so please enjoy the return trip at least.

When the ship has begun to depart, lady Sera comes to see us off. Please stop waving your hands while crying like it's a final farewell. I feel a bit embarrassed.

After spending one day and one night, we got off the ship in a town along

the way that had less than 10.000 total population. From there, we're traveling on the wagon after a long time off. Along the way to Bornean forest, There's going to be another town with the same scale as this one, but beside that, there are only several villages. I'm glad that at least it's not an unexplored region.

Now, let's go, to the elven forest.

Intermission: Dance and Tea Party

*

Tomorrow is my debut in the upper society at last!

Even though I had been asking mother for a long time, she didn't let me to because it was still too early for me she said. But, at last. Yes, I've finally gotten permission to attend the ball at last.

"You're really lucky Lina."

It looks like Onee-sama is vexed to see me debuts at my 12 years old age since Onee-sama didn't debut in the upper society until she was 14.

But, but, but.
Since the permission comes suddenly, I have to use an old dress that mother used during her childhood. I can't say such spoiled thing like wanting a new dress like Onee-sama. If I said that, the talk about going the ball would be likely gone.

◇

Uwah, the castle! It's the castle!

"Wait, Lina. Your mouth. You're a lady from today on, pay attention to child-like gestures."
"My, oh Fia, you were also like that when you saw the castle for the first time. You two are really siters~"
"Hey, Teena. Please don't do that in front of Lina. There's this thing called older sister's dignity--"

Onee-sama is talking about something with Teena-san of viscount Brates house, but it passes through my ears.
Cause you know, look how many carriages there are in the castle! I wonder which house is that carriage from. Its round body is cute. My, there is even a golem carriage! Amazing, I want to ride it at least once~

"Now then, young lady, please your hand."

The castle footman opened the door, and father who was waiting outside held out his hand. Father is going to be my escort today.

"Hey, Fia. Why isn't the next baron Eto-sama escorting you."
"No way, Teena. That love is already over. Today the prince has especially come from the royal capital."
"If you're aiming too high, you'll miss your chance to get married you know?"
"You're one to say that Teena. Rather than that! Even if aiming for the prince is impossible, I can still go for his accompanying holy knight or the other attendant who has a promising future."

There are a lot among influential nobles who are engaged even before they're 10, but for middle nobles like us, many are still unmarried even after they become adult. There are some who have too high of ideals, they remain single even after they're over 20, but as for myself, I want to to get married by 17 years old at least. I'm alright with the other person looking ordinary, he just has to be gentle.

◇

Uwah, amazing.

I have a bad head if I do say so myself, I don't have any other word beside

that.
Father escort me to the ball room with more than 100 gentlemen and ladies who are having pleasant talks.

But! It was too early to be surprised.

"Lina, this small hall is a waiting room for people who are debuting in the upper society."

There's this many people who are debuting! I wonder if everyone is aiming for the prince after all?
I go around the small hall greeting everyone while father introduces me.

Ah, this is the first time I call my name this many times.

"You're in the way. Move it."
"I, I'm sorry."

When I was standing on the passage to the hall, I got scolded. He's a scary person wearing a white armor. I wonder if he's a knight? I apologized and conceded the way.

"You're not bad. Were you trying to immediately greet the prince?"
"Ah, Onee-sama. It's not like that, I was scolded for blocking the way."
"Blocking the way you said, a thin girl like won't be enough to block the way even if there are 10 of you right?"

When I think about it again, that's true. I wonder if there's some kind of reason?

◇

"Haa, I'm tired."
"Ara ara, let's wet our throats with something."

Together with Onee-sama and her friend, we're sitting on the sofa inside the ball room, and watch the ball. I didn't think that the ball I had always wanted to go was this hard. I don't remember most people whom I introduced myself to.

"Of course that would be so. I was seeing from the side, you were looking down the whole time you were being introduced right?"
"I mean, everyone was older than me, it was a bit scary."

I quench my throat with the fruit water that the maid-san's brought. As expected of duke-sama, not only it has fruit that I rarely eat, it even has ice.

"Mou, you two, it's too early to become tired."
"I'm sorry Teena. Leaving that aside, what is with the crowd earlier?"
"It seems there were specialties delicacies from baron Muno territory, but nothing had remained on the plates when I got there. It might have been really delicious, uncles and his friends were competing to eat it."

To even make the older men who are used to gourmet food to compete with each other, I wonder if it's that delicious. I want to eat it even only for a mouthful.

"Disappointing huh. However, this is the first time I've heard baron Muno territory, is it a distant territory?"
"What are you saying, it's next to the duchy. There was a rumor of it getting attacked by the demon's army right."
"Ah, that! It was an epic about a magician with demi-human mercenaries who repulsed ten of thousands monster herds wasn't it."
"However, since the story came from sir Toruma, it's better if you take it with a grain of salt."

I've also heard about it.
The opponents who annihilated the army without even letting them get ready were turned around in a blink of an eye with just a small troop. He must be a giant man with scars covering his whole body. There are beautiful women on his side at beck, and if he wears an eyepatch, his atmosphere might be even strong--

"Lina, are you tired?"

--Ha. I indulged in my delusion. Since different dish are being displayed on the place with baron Muno cooking a while ago, we're going there to look around.

◇

Sweet smell tickles my nose. What smell is this?
Thin batter is spread and fried on top of a heating magic tool, some kind of red fruit and white soft thing are put on top of it and it gets enclosed.
What a skillful movement! I've seen the chef in my house cooks before, but it's completely different.

"Okay, here you go. Small lady-san."
"T, thank you very much!"

The chef presents the cuisine while smiling sweetly. I accept the plate that the black-haired attendant gives me.
When I look closer, this chef person isn't a servant is he? I mean, he's wearing such expensive-looking clothes. He's young, but he's surely from an influential noble house. Even Onee-sama, and Teena introduce themselves before they receive the cuisine.
I also give my name in panic. I understand when we are talking that he's

a honorary chevalier-sama. Onee-sama and her friend seem to change their interest toward the dish after they've heard his peerage, but I think it's amazing to acquire a peerage with his own power even though he's this young.

I think of such thing until it's time to eat the dish. I sit down on the chair near Onee-sama and her friend, and use a small knife and a fork on the plate to put the dish on my mouth.

Delicious!

White soft sweetness melt in my mouth. I wonder if I'm chewing that red fruit? The slightly sour taste mixed with that white soft sweets are mixing, the inside of my mouth is in bliss. It's no very ladylike, but my lips begin to open involuntarily, and a smile leaks out.

"U, um, nice to meet you!"
"Y, yes, nice to meet you!"

When I've finished eating and handed the plate to the maid-san, a young gentleman calls me out. He also looks nervous, but my heart is shaking to the point like it'll explodes.
I was invited to my first dance by that person. Although I stepped on his foot since I was nervous, he also stepped on mine, so we were even. After we had finished dancing, his friend tried to invite me, but since he was a bit overbearing, I was afraid and somehow able to decline.

Men are a bit scary after all.

◇

I wanted to eat the [Crepes] from before once again, but it was already

over. It seemed that the white soft things were all used up, "I'm sorry." he apologized kindly.
It's strange. Even though his nose isn't high, the area around his eyes aren't deep, and he can't be called handsome, I can't take my eyes off. I wonder if it's because of his calm demeanor, and his gentle expression?

"C, chevalier-sama! Would you dance with me if it's alright with you!"
"Yes, I'll be glad to."

I've invited him to a dance involuntarily. My voices were loud because I was too nervous, the eyes of everyone around were gathered to us. Ah, my face is hot.
Chevalier seemed to be slightly surprised, but he immediately agreed.

"Please don't be so nervous, it's fine to think the people around as trees and stones. Please think of me like your brother or father, and be at ease."

He patted my tense shoulders gently, and whispered so. Just a bit, really a bit of the tension in my shoulders come out, and I've become relaxed.
When the music starts, I'm dancing unlike falling like before. While we're dancing like fish in the water, he whispers "It's alright", "Be more relaxed there.", "Like a princess riding on the flow" which feel good, and then the music stops. To have this much fun in dancing with a skillful person! I have to exercise dancing more seriously from now on.
I wanted to dance for another tune, but since other girls were waiting for their turns, I refrained myself. It looks like I'll get bullied if I monopolize him.

"Lina, were you that skillful?"
"It was because Chevalier-sama was very good, I danced spontaneously."
"Fu~n, I have a rule against someone younger, so I'll pass."

Onee-sama is smiling badly while hiding bottom half of her face with a folding fan. She must be thinking of something, but if you don't do it

moderately, you'll be late to get married you know?

◇

"Thank you for inviting me today--"

When I saw the person who visited the tea party I was having with Onee-sama and her friends at the salon, I almost dropped my cup.

Why is chevalier-sama here?

"Ufufufu, since he looked like Lina's favorite, I sent a written invitation together with your letter of thanks."
"You should thank Fia. A lot of girls from other houses have sent their invitations, it seems they're still competing even now."

Onee-sama, and Teena-sama whispered to both my ears.
Even though Chevalier-sama is surrounded by Onee-sama and her friends who look so attractive, he seems very calm not befitting of his age like always.

Tetra-sama! Pushing your b, breasts on him while pretending to talk is cheating.
Ah, even Shiona-sama, are you two aiming for chevalier-sama who's of the same age? I feel annoyed somehow in my chest.

If the house maid didn't come while bringing the present brought by chevalier-sama, I might cut myself inbetween them like a child.

The sweets are called Muno roll, and it taste like between the crepes from before and gururian. It's a bit heavier than crepes, but it suits the blue tea well. The blue tea are presents from Teena-sama, so I've never drank one

with a brand though.

I was surprised to hear the story about the time he's granted the peerage when we were talking about the story concerning the cake. I mean, chevalier-sama is the hero of that defensive war of Muno city! He doesn't like it at all. I mean, his hair is silky, his arms are slender and supple, they hardly look like they swing a staff or a sword.

Since he had some business, he unfortunately couldn't accept the invitation to a dinner tonight.
When chevalier-sama was going back, father handed him a bag with fruits and they had a long talk about something. Those fruits are something from the orchard of our house. It's really bitter, and on top of being sour, it looks bad, so insects don't harm it, making it non-labour intensive fruits, but it can only be eaten by making it into pickles, however nowadays gabo fruits pickles have dominated the market. I wonder if that's why our house's fortune is slightly slumping.

◇

"Good day, Lina-sama."
"G,gud dai, chevlier-sana."

I was surprised to meet chevalier-sama when I came out of the passage out of the garden. Because of that, I fumbled. Ah, it's embarrassing.
Father looks restless, I wonder what happens? It smells really nice.
It looks like the black-haired attendant of chevalier-sama hands over a white box. What kind of sweets are those I wonder? Ah, even though I know it's improper, my lips are loosing.

"This is, sir Pendragon! W, were you really able to make a new use for that fruit?"

"Yes, I baked a cake using that fruit."

That white soft thing can certainly hides the sour fruits, but isn't that because of the white soft thing, not the fruit?
As a proof, that fruit's color become completely different because the slices have been wrapped with a lot of that white soft thing.

"This is, it doesn't look like that fruit, have you put something else inside?"
"No, the one on the top is that fruit. It changes color when heated."

Heating fruits? You usually cool them with well water.
To make that brown fruit becomes pink. The color looks really beautiful.

The maids cut it, and I timidly put the [Cake] on my mouth. People are just staring at it, and no one eats it.

Amazing! It softly melts. The texture is different than crepes, it's different than any sweets I've ever eaten.
This time, I put the sour part of the fruit on my mouth while being prepared. It's soft sweet and smooth. As I chew, the fiber feels different than strawberry, or apple.

I want to eat a bit more.
However, unfortunately, it seems to be over with one slice. The fork on the plate with the remaining white soft thing is taken, I endure the impulse to eat it. I'm already a lady who's made her upper society debut.

"I'm thinking of presenting this cake for the wedding of Tisrad-sama."

Ah, father is trembling with chevalier-sama's bomb remark. It's a terribly great honor to have the fruit used as a dish for the wedding of the next-next duke-sama. I understand the feeling of father who nods with trembling body from the unexpected offer.

Perhaps, this cheap fruits can sell more, and our house's finance will become better maybe.

I was called to father's room this night, and got asked if I wanted to send marriage proposal to chevalier-sama. Even though father hated and called honorary nobles shams in all his life.

Ehehehe, Lina Pendragon eh. It'd be nice if Chevalier-sama accepts. And then, the two of us will dance every night. It must be fun, no doubt about it.

I've eaten a delicious cake, and heard a wonderful story, it seems I will sleep pleasantly today.
It'd be nice if tomorrow is also a good day.

Intermission: Orc Alchemist

*

I am of the ancient perished race--Ga Hou the orc.

The descendant of fools who followed the demon lord, made an enemy of the whole world and got themselves destroyed several hundreds years ago. There should be several groups hiding around the world even now, but no race would probably accept us. Even though the orc empire has been destroyed more than 600 years ago, the world never forgets the crime committed by orcs. Since we're long lived, we have learned the wisdom and techniques to survive with subsistence on the corners of the world, we are already unsuited to appear on the world.

"Ga Hou."
"Ru Heu huh, what's wrong. Did a guest come to the shop."
"Yup, it's the usual masked guest."

This place is rarely visited by human even for a place situated at the downtown outside of the duchy capital great wall. Since it's located beside the sewage filtration facility, the stench is quite terrible, beastkins who have sharp noses also rarely come near it. Although, if this filtration facility that was built at the time of orc empire didn't exist, the mother large river would have been more polluted. When I think so, I can forgive this stench--no, sorry, this stench is unbearable after all. I put on the usual perfumed mask, wear the hood, and go to the shop's front.

"How long do you intend to make me wait!"
"I, I'm sorry, then de requests, here are all the sleep inducing drugs."

When I'm talking to a guest, I always talk with stutters, and use a strange accent. If the other person looks down on me, it's a success.
Wonder why is this man always this exasperated whenever he comes

here. I think he should relax his mind a bit more, but there is no need to give an advice. He'd only snap back if I gave him one. I will not do useless thing.
I begin explaining the small bottles that has been passed passed to and lined up on the counter. Even though he probably ignores it, I don't want to forgo my work ethic.

"One small bottle ish, six silverr coins. Dhere are three bottles, how many gold coins ish that?"
"Fuhn, you savages, can't you count. It's three gold coins."

Fumu, he didn't lower it too much. I'll let it off if it's just by three silver coins.

"A, as expectedd of noble-sama. Y, you count fast heu."
"Fuhn, this kind of things are easy for those who are of Shiga kingdom nobles."

Even though the thing about him being a noble should've been a secret, he plainly admitted it. But well, this guy's wallet is adorned with his metal family crest, so there's no need for him to imply it. Since the man himself seems like he wants to hide his identity, I'll keep silent.
The man lined up three gold coins on the counter, took the bottles into a leather case, and went out. He's probably not going to use them for something decent, but I have stopped worrying such thing 400 years ago. I guess I'll give these gold coins to Ro Han's community. I don't need thing like money for living in the sewer of the duchy capital.

◇

"Ga Hou, that."

There certainly is a suspicious group at the place she's pointing. I've seen those clothes. They were the same people who shouted crazy doctrine, "We should become demons in order to not get destroyed by the demon lord.", on the downtown's square. They're called Wings of Liberty--a fanatic group.

The ruin of the labyrinth should be up ahead. The labyrinth is completely dead anyway, and the teleport device to the underground labyrinth should be sealed off. High level cipher has been applied on the seal that no normal humans can possibly solve. Yes, let's believe they cannot enter.

Ru Heu leaves that place, and I approach the group.
When I check them with appraisal skill, there's one with [Abnormal Status: Demonic Possession]. I don't know what kind of demon is it, but I'm bad with fighting. I will flee from here.
Before the effect of invisibility skill wears off, I've left the scene.

◇

"Let me hide here, Ga Hou."

Blood-stained Ro Han falls down into the shop.
Looks like he quarreled with a wolfkin man. Of all thing to do for an orc, how pitiable. A young man who hasn't even lived for 50 years doing as he pleases like this, truly sad.
Right now is the season of the martial art tournament that opens once every three years. There are a lot of rowdy people strutting around, so someone who can't restrain his arms shouldn't have gone out.

I leave the treatment of Ro Han to Ru Heu, and go outside the shop.
It'll be troublesome if the authority comes here.

Fumu, I haven't seen a wolfkin in 200 years, do they have four arms now? They should have one head if I'm not mistaken, but isn't there another head beside the hairless one.

Now then, let's stop the self-concealment around here.
Apparently it's a lower class demon called short horn demon. It has decaying poison on its claws, a bothersome thing. Its saliva is a strong acid huh, how's the body doesn't get dissolved.

I can't let it runs amok in my shop right in front of my eyes.
I'm bad at fighting, but let's push it out to some place away from the shop.

I put on the magic activator ring, and consecutively chant [Exoskeleton (Shell Armor)], and [Physical Reinforcement (Light Boost)] in low voice. They were lower class magic, but I gave priority to the shortness of the chanting.
I pull out a wooden pillar nearby and set it up. The demon who's playing around with the chivalrous mercenary man is turning toward me. Before it stopped turning, and in unnatural stance, I strike it with the pillar with all my might, and push it away to an open space at the opposite side of the street.

People are running from the open space like they're rolling.
There are demi-human mercenaries nearby who are chivalrously assaulting the demon in succession. What a brave thing to do. I guess I'll go against my principle, and help them here. Alas, I don't want to see those brave young men fall victim to the demon's claws.

"■■■■■■■ ■■■ ■■■■■ ■■■■——"

I drank the reserved magic augment medicine. It's working.

"——■■■ Exploding Flame Dragon (Drag Ignis)"

The mercenaries who were holding down the demon got rolled up on the magic for a bit, just for a bit. They should just get off with large burns, probably.
The demon is dying after getting burned by the Drag Ignis of advanced level magic. Even though I've become weaker with ages, to not die after it got hit by that much magic, quite resilient. I pick a spear that has fallen below and throw it to the demon who's inching forward despite its burn. The spear that was thrown with physical reinforcement in effect pierces deep into the demon, killing it.
Fumu, my body reacts to the first advanced magic since 100 years ago after all. I should have shot several intermediate magic to defeat it after all. I'll get Ru Heu massages my lower back when I return to the dwelling.

I take out the magic core from the crumbles of the demon, and toss it to the chief-like man of the mercenaries who have fought just now. A magic core this big is valuable, but this much quality isn't needed for medicines that I make. You guys can drink to your heart contents this night.

While the chief is thinking over picking the magic core, I pick up the demon horn that's fallen near my feet. It's an item called [Short Horn] according to the appraisal skill. Since the explanations that float in my mind are written in demon language, I'll check it on the dictionary when I return.

The content that I got from checking the dictionary was shocking.

That thing is an item that transforms a person into a demon. The demon that I defeated was probably the form of a young wolfkin that had been transformed.

Dreadful.
Demon--no. I'm worried that people will not retain their reason if the existence of this item becomes known. I can't help but wish that the

nightmare of demi-human hunting from 400 years ago won't rampage on this land once again.

◇

Around three days after that, I feel turbulent waves from the underground.
Don't tell me that the ancient great demon lord will revive. I hope it's just an unfounded fear.

◇

I can feel intense tremors since awhile ago.
There shouldn't be a hypocenter in this land. If this is caused by someones' fight, it must be between the hero and the demon lord.
However, at the very least, I hope it's not dragons.

Ru Heu who finally couldn't keep still in the dwelling went to the underground passage where the wings of liberty group occupied for reconnaissance. It's not like I'm not worried, but there's probably no human that can see through Ru Heu's invisibility, although it's not quite at my level.

A few minutes after the underground tremors had stopped, Ru Heu returned like she was tumbling.

"Oh no Ga Hou. My face might had been seen."

As I understand, looks like her face was seen by a masked man who was flying at high speed when she was moving in the underground passage.

To see through Ru Heu invisibility! I should be surprised at that, but why was he flying in an underground passage! I'm a bit lost at whether I should question that or not.

"If he was flying in high speed, then it should just have been in an instant. I don't think your race was known within that instant. However, as a precaution, you shouldn't approach the underground passage for a while."

Just to be sure, I guess we should go to a different continent for at least 100 years until it's been cooled down.
I also have to contact the family of Ri Fuu on the royal capital.

I go to the basement of my dwelling, where the teleport gate (portal) is. This artifact in the shape of constructed stones can connect to the same kind of portal that has been connected with space magic.

I gaze the portal that has been booted up after spending three days. The vermilion stones are truly beautiful.

"Torii has to be like this after all."
<TLN: Torii is the traditional Japanese shrine gate. They're usually painted vermilion.>

A voice came out of the place where there shouldn't be anyone, my heart felt as if it would flew out of my chest.

Ridiculous.

Ridiculous, ridiculous. Invisibility technique that surpasses my perception ability? There wasn't any report from the conspicuous white crocodile familiars that I had made to lurk. Were them all eluded?! Impossible.

A silver masked man is there.

I calmly talk to the intruder whom I normally would have eliminated.

That is because I've seen his title.

"Do you have any business, hero-dono."

Yes, he is the hero. The warrior of god that matches even the demon lord. A transcendence being whom an ordinary person will never exceed. Since I've been found out by that hero, elimination is impossible.

"Ah, it's nothing much. It looks like I have surprised your orc friend in the underground passage some times ago, so I've come here to tell you that I don't intend to spread it around."

What a useless consideration.

"I also don't intend to tell others about this teleport gate, so please be at ease. I won't talk about it to a third party either."
"Is that alright?"
"Isn't it a secret?"
"Umu, I cannot let them get abused, they are our race's inheritance after all."
"I see, so the broken gate from before was your creation too huh."

Around here, there's one around Seryuu city. There should be a simple teleport gate for monitoring the dragon valley. There should be only one abandoned teleport gate in this continent. Since the teleport gate that was on the small country group near the Saga empire was completely destroyed without a trace, young humans can't possibly know it.

"May I hear where it leads to?"
"I'm sorry but I cannot say it. My brethren are ahead of this teleport gate, few in numbers they are. I cannot disclose it for the sake of their safety."

This teleport gate is also going to disappear soon. The hero will probably survive, but everything in the radius of several hundreds meters around

this teleport gate will be ejected beyond the sub-space, and get annihilated.
Farewell, Ro Han, Ri Fuu. Please forgive me for going to the samsara together with Ru Heu ahead of you.

The <<Overdrive Ray>> from the teleport gate fills the open space.
It abruptly disappears.

Death is quite disappointing.
Darkness and silence wrap this body.

"I'm sorry for ruining the mood, but since it was dangerous, I've dispersed the mana from the teleport gate. If I left it on rampage, it might affect not only this duchy capital, but even the royal capital, and this continent after all."

He's said that extremely easily, but dispersing mana from a rampaging teleport gate isn't a technique of human. Moreover, for him to recognize the destination of this teleport gate that I have protected with my life, regrettable.

"Right then, I'll vow with the name of hero, and the Parion god that I will not tell this to others."

To even promise in the name of god!
It's impossible for him to break the vow he's made in the name of his god.
My see through skill also tells me that he's not lying. Let's believe on him, the hero, here.

This is how I meet Nanashi, the hero with a strange name.

While drinking the liquor and eating the snacks he has brought with relish, I begin to talk about the old story of the orcs after he begs for it.
When I tell him that this sewer and the clean water facility are the

heritages of orc, he exceedingly admires it. We even purposely go to the clean water facility for him to study the construction, what a diligent man. I begin to involuntarily talk like an old man about my various past successes, boastful stories, schemes, and even hardships. He listened to it to the end happily without looking tired. Truly a strange youth.

"However, what the wild boar king did is surely a crime. To fight the whole world that even drag its own race."
"It couldn't be helped, Nanashi. At that time, excluding our Orc empire, and the Saga empire, all demi-humans were enslaved by human. The wild boar king, despite knowing that he couldn't win, turned on the world, reduced the power of the human, and got annihilated by the hero."

The human at time that were ruling 90% of the world. When the ancient empire which controlled the majority of the world was destroyed, the orcs' battles were over. The wild boar king who had become the demon lord and couldn't maintain its ego probably marched toward the saga empire, which was the only empire that protected demi-human, to seek its own death.

I won't forget the sight of the hero who tried, until shedding tears of blood, to stop the death march of our brethren who had been manipulated by the five upper class demons. The hero ordered for the heavenly dragon's light breath with trembling voice while warped with crying voice. Exactly because he(?) found a nation that we didn't harbor our meaningless ambition, and lay dormant underground.

He left a single great sword as a proof of our friendship when he was leaving the duchy capital.

There is no inscription.

Thus, I will give it the name.

"■■ Name Order. Holy Sword『Nanashi』"

We will hand down our treasure until the final moment when Orcs perish.

Intermission: Tenion Head Miko [First Part]

*

"Head miko-sama! It's terrible!"

Mou, what a hopeless child. To lack composure when he's going to be 40 like that, I think it's a bit problematic. Maybe I should better give him some stern advice now?
<TLN: The head miko talks like a playful woman in Japanese.>

"What's wrong, head priest. You are higher than me in the temple, so you shouldn't use 'sama' to call me."
"I'm sorry, head miko-sama. No, this isn't the time to talk about that!"
"Calm down. What's happened?"
"Miko-dono of Parion temple, and even of Garleon temple have been kidnapped by someone."

My, such thing.
Kidnapping the miko of oracle in the middle of demon lord season like this.
There are seven miko who have received oracles in this duchy capital. They are Sera and me, head miko of Urion temple and Zaikuon temple, the apprentice miko of Heraluon temple, and the two kidnapped miko.

Normally, one would have sufficed, but last month, by duke-sama's order, every temple was to undertake an oracle for hints of the demon lord revival. Yet, instead of narrowing down the possible revival location, each temple received different response. Although it's normal for the details to be different between people who receive oracles depending on their gods, this is the first time the difference is this much.

My oracle points toward the duchy capital. If possible I want it to be a miss, but it's the same place as the prediction of the location of the demon lord revival 66 years ago. There is no mistake that the demon lord

will be revived here. Before, there was a hero near me, but that person has left us, and gone back to the original world. No good aren't I, wishing for something that doesn't exist.

The oracle that Sera's received points to another continent. Even though our oracles are from the same god, I wonder why do we receive different ones. For me to try guessing what the god is thinking, it's really not clergy-like at all isn't it.

Oh right, Sera!
This isn't the time to get lost in thoughts.

"Head priest, check the place where Sera is."
"Yes, head miko-sama!"

I admonish the head priest who have begun to run in a hurry to make him order other people for it. Mou, what are you doing being the gofer yourself. I ask the head priest to contact his excellency the duke if sera's whereabouts can't be confirmed. Since this child is flustered like this, he looks like he'll just collapse.

◇

Even though the priests have looked everywhere, Sera's whereabout is still unknown.
The matter about the three kidnapped miko have reached his excellency the duke too, and his knight and guard subordinates are searching the duchy capital even now. Although I haven't got the report from the bell tower, since I can see that the lights from the ships outside the harbor aren't moving, the harbor is probably blockaded. That's relieving.

However, since the opponents have defended against our detection magic,

it looks like they have a powerful magician that can use advanced level magic, or a person who holds powerful artifacts. I wonder if it's that group who were spreading rumors about the end, [Wings of Liberty], that the priests had been talking about.

Sera, please come back safely.

I take the resurrection artifact that's hanging on my neck on my palm, and pour mana into it, even though I know that this is for nothing but a peace of my mind.

Not good, it's impossible to pour mana into the artifact when my heart is disarranged.

This isn't because I'm bad at using magic tools at all, but one needs delicate mana control to pour mana into an artifact. Like putting a thread to the pinhole of a needle on the ground from the top of a tower, that is how precise yet with a far off mind the work is. Having a disturbed mind is like sending wind to the hanging thread. There's no way the thread can get through the pinhole.

I'll use the forbidden mind magic to put my mind back at ease.
Tenion-sama, please give your protection to your believer.

◇

I woke up in my room that's begun sinking into darkness.

Looks like I've fainted.
It can't be helped with my age right. To faint while I was pouring mana into the resurrection artifact like this.

Fainted?
Losing consciousness in this consecration?

I can't believe it.
This place is near the sanctuary where ritual magic is held, and is filled with divinity. Even for an old woman like me, I'm just like a young woman--that's too exaggerated isn't it. Although I can move as well as a youngster, fainting in such place like this, maybe I don't have much time left.

I'm already 80 years old after all. It might be a good time to soon go on a journey to where my friends who had died earlier went.

I didn't notice it before when I was lost in such thought, but there's no shaking today is it. I'm glad that the tremors that had been assaulting the duchy capital for the past several days is gone. It was troubling to deal with nobles who came almost everyday while asking "Is it going to be alright?" you know. Though since they're donating, the head priest doesn't seem like he has any complaint. I'd like to entrust the admonishment job to the high priest soon.

◇

I wonder if I'm really going senile.
There were many assassins who had intruded upon this sanctuary before, but this is the first time one has gotten so close. Wonder if my crisis perception skill is getting rusty?

While feeling dubious with the lack of thirst of blood from the intruder, I take the initiative to greet him.

"Ara, the assassin tonight is quite excellent."

The one who appears from the shadow as if gliding on the ground is a young boy wearing a white mask. There are two wrapped clothes in his shoulder--are those people? Is he an assassin who also happens to be a kidnapper I wonder?

I could see with [Status Check], but I couldn't see his name. Since I could see the name of the two people on his shoulder, it wasn't like the skill wasn't invoked. The two are the miko of Parion and Garleon who have been kidnapped together with Sera.

His level is 70 like the hero of Saga empire, but his title is [Saint]. He can't be called anything but abnormal to have such level at his age even though he's not the summoned hero of Saga empire.

Moreover, that [Saint] title. Although there are other people who have [Saintess] title like me, there shouldn't have been anyone with [Saint] title for the last 100 years here. I wonder who. I'd have consented if he had the title of hero instead.

"Nice to meet you, Yu Tenion Head Miko-dono. I am Nanashi."
"Hey, Nanashi-san. Won't you show your face. It's hard to talk with that mask."

I endure hard not to let my voice trembles.

Hey, what about Sera?

I want to ask that.
However, my intuition as a miko has told me. That child is already no more.

"Hey, Nanashi-san. Don't you know the whereabout of our kidnapped miko, Sera."

"I knew."

Ah, as I've thought.
That child has died isn't she. I can't, it's still to early to cry, for that child's sake. As a miko, I have to ask him now.

"Was the one who deprived Sera's life the humans of『Wings of Liberty』? or-- the demon lord. That's right isn't it, Sera has been sacrificed for the demon lord."
"That's right."

Ah, I can't hold back my tears.
Even though I have to ask for the deployment of the saga empire hero, and even though I'm not sinking in sorrow, I can't stop my tears.

"Is that so, that child wasn't able to go against her fate."

Nanashi-san takes out a handkerchief out of somewhere and wipes my tears with it. Although he's wearing a strange mask, he's a gentleman isn't he.

I talked to him about the catastrophe that would befall this land while crying. In order to pull him as a war potential before the hero arrives here. He gave indifferent replies when he heard the story about the demon lord revival. Does it not feel real to him? Or perhaps--he has already exterminated it?--That can't be right.

◇

"Yu Tenion head miko-dono, are you able to use resurrection magic?"
"Yes, I'm able to."

I answer Nanashi-san's sudden question.
He probably wants to bring me to where the Sera's body is, and use resurrection magic, but that's impossible. This resurrection artifact hasn't been filled with enough mana to be usable.

"What, that sort of things huh."

Nanashi-san took the resurrection artifact from my chest, and began to dazzlingly pour mana into it.

It's an unbelievable sight.
Doing the precise mana filling just like that. Normally you'd need one hour just to adjust the mana before you even begin to fill it.

However, he still has the body of human after all.
The amount of mana isn't something that can be filled by a person alone. While this is happening, the 30 minutes after-death condition becomes the shackles and resurrection will be impossible.

"Excuse me for a bit."

Nanashi-san takes out a holy sword just like when he took the handkerchief earlier. It's accompanied by brilliant holy light that brighten this room as if it's daylight. Even though it's this bright, it a gentle light that doesn't hurt my eyes. I've never seen a holy sword with this much overflowing power. I can feel an order magnitude different in strength compared to the holy sword that my hero-sama wielded, Joyeuse.

But, what is it for?
I don't think that it's to hurt me. Just what on earth--

"I'll fill it up right away, so please excuse my discourtesy."

--Nanashi-san is absorbing the holy light from the holy sword as if

pulsing. And then Nanashi-san pours mana into the artifact without looking agitated, like he's just breathing. Don't tell me, he's using his own body as an intermediary to transfer mana from the holy sword to the artifact?

Such absurd method doesn't exist even in fairy tales you know?

While I was taken aback by that absurdity, the mana filling on the artifact was over. Completing a process that'd have taken several years in just 10 minutes, I am speechless.

He's done so much already, I'll show him that I'll run fast to where Sera's body even if I have to whip out this old body.

As if ridiculing that determination, Nanashi-san summoned Sera's body right in front of me. He doesn't have summoning skill though? Did he summon without the skill I wonder. Maybe he used the infinite stowing (Inventory) like the hero.
No, he said that it's only been a few seconds since the death of Sera's body. Time passes even for the hero's Inventory. Perhaps it's fixation magic? No, that shouldn't be able to be used on living things or corpses. Don't tell me, time magic? Even though it's a magic that only appear in fairy tales, it's mysterious that I feel that Nanashi-san could possibly use it.

The body of Sera which has appeared in front of me is beautiful without a single wound.
Nanashi-san who has noticed that the body is naked puts a cloth on it.

Rather than that, I have to concentrate now.
It'd be a disgrace as a woman if I wasted the miracles that Nanashi-san had created.

Intermission: Tenion Head Miko [Latter Part]

*

"Head miko-sama, I'm home."

Sera enters the sanctuary while looking livelier than ever. This child always looks happy, but it's rare for her to be this cheerful.

"What's happened Sera. Did you meet your lover?"
"I, it's not like that! Chevalier-sama isn't my lover."

This child is really bad at lying.
Since I was a bit interested, I asked about that chevalier person.

"There's this chevalier-sama who helped me with the food distribution, it felt like I had met him mysteriously, it's been on my mind. Right, he's a person with similar atmosphere to head miko-sama, tender, or rather, flexible, how should I put it--"

While hearing Sera speaks fondly of her love, I've had my suspicion that this chevalier person might be Nanashi-san from the other day, even though it's unfounded. I wonder if it's because I've been thinking about Nanashi-san all the time lately.

It's not a love at old age you know?

I received an oracle from the ceremony that I did at the dawn of that time that the demon lord who was supposed to revive in the duchy capital had been annihilated. Of course I immediately sent a messenger to duke-sama, but it can't be announced publicly yet since there are other temples' honors to consider. Of course, the king had promised that he would definitely announce it, so the announcement about the annihilation of the demon lord would probably be told during the kingdom conference

in the spring.

"Head miko-sama, you look really happy about something you know? Did you get a lover?"
"Ufufu, I was just engrossed with thoughts about Nanashi."

It looked like she wanted to counter, but she's still soft huh. To be so upset about my joke. Ufufu, her heart is restless like she's really in love. When the demon lord season is over, it might be a good time for me to retire from head miko position soon.

I don't think that Sera will forget her duty, but let's give her a warning to keep the relationship at healthy scope just to be sure. A miko won't be able to receive oracles if she loses her virginity. It might be cruel for a teenage girl, but she has to wait until an oracle that states the demon lord season is over descends.

◇

I met Sera's lover--it might be better to call him a candidate of one--in the duke castle. He's really popular, and surrounded by girls. Ara ara, oh Sera. If you have such face, he'll laugh at you you know?

Still, what a nice smell. It's not just sweetness from sugar. I know that it's out of stock.

However, this voice.
It's exactly like Nanashi-san though. I wonder if he's his twin brother? His level is half of Nanashi's, and even his skills composition is different after all. The things that are the same are his age, voice, and hair color, I guess his height is about the same too.

Since I was together with old acquaintances from Parion and Garleon temples who I had happened to meet across when I was congratulating Tisrad-sama for his wedding, I whispered him (Satou) leading words directly, but rather than getting shaken, he was perplexed instead. Looks like I was mistaken.

I might be thinking about Nanashi-san too much.
Ufufu, I shouldn't be one to make fun of Sera. I look like a maiden in love.

◇

"Good evening, head miko-sama."

He's really elusive isn't he.
How did he invade I wonder? I didn't feel feedback from space magic, so I think it's not that.

"I've come here today to ask about the oracle regarding demon lord."
"Ara? You've annihilated it right?"
"It must have been defeated by a passing hero."

He wants to play dumb that it's not him to the end huh.

"You won't announce that the demon lord has been defeated?"
"I've told his excellency the duke directly, but the『Annihilated』oracle haven't come to the other temples, so we can't announce that the demon lord has been annihilated from Tenion temple alone."

Each temple is most likely questioning whether the [Each of the foretold demon lord] is annihilated, not the one in the duchy capital underground.

In other words, the demon lord season this time is not over yet--in that

regards, the fact that the duchy capital is already excluded from that might be a small blessing. Thanks to Nanashi-san.

Just in case, I tell Nanashi-san about that, but he too has already expected it. He simply murmured, "So, it's like that after all." His atmosphere is like, "It's just demon lords, they can come at me no matter how many ."
It's very fun to guess the invisible expression behind that mask.

Nanashi-san put the filled resurrection artifact on my neck. It's really amazing. I wonder if it's the prejudice of old age which make me thinks that the labor of nearly 20 years is fruitless.

"Thank you Nanashi-san."

However, I mustn't forget to thank you.

Although I asked him about chevalier Pendragon, he only replied, "That young noble who they call miracle chef right.", and he didn't seem to know the detail. I wonder if it's just my imagination that his "don't know" manner looks exactly like him (Satou's).

The [Indulgence] that I've prepared will become a waste if he (Satou) really is an acquaintance of Nanashi-san.

I wonder what'd happen if that third prince meets Nanashi-san?
I can't help but feel a bad premonition. I had hoped that the king didn't send such troublemaker during this difficult time.

It's not that is it.

That king shouldn't have been one to do such mistake. That unbending king should be able to predicts three moves ahead for sure.

I see, he's getting rid the nuisance the prince.

The king has predicted that the demon lord will appear on the labyrinth city. To push aside the prince to the uncertain element, the duchy capital. I have to complain directly to the king.

I don't know whether he'll accept it or not, but I will hand over the [Indulgence] to Nanashi-san in case he eliminates the third prince by mistake.

I actually wanted to give him the bell of Tenion, but I couldn't bring myself to since I was afraid I'd incur his displeasure. It's a bit unlike me isn't it.

◇

The world crisis came unexpectedly early.

Despair? I think that word is more hopeful than the scene right now.

At the duke castle seen from the sanctuary, the great monstrous fish (Tovkezeera) emerges from the huge summoning circle nearby. It's the incarnation of destruction that brought about the deaths of many countries during the time of Yamato-sama. The aerial fortress that the great demon lord employed. I can't see the status since it's too far, but I can't let out words from its overwhelming presence.

Thinking that it'd be fine as long as Nanashi-san is here might be too optimistic of me.

I collapse on the sofa without even having the margin to worry about Sera who has gone out.
Several of the monster that can destroy the duchy capital alone appear from the summoning circle and swim to the arena.

Seven great monstrous fish.

Far from just Shiga kingdom, all the countries on this continent will disappear.

Ah, wonder if I have no choice but to call the heavenly dragon even if it means destroying the kingdom. It's the friend of Yamato-sama who's living on the range of mount Fuji. There's no choice but to use the dragon summoning crown (Fellow Crown) shining on the king's head that can be used to summon the dragon just once.

It's as if seven demon lords have appeared.

I want to rush to the arena to support them, but I have to be here. Since Nanashi-san most likely has filled the resurrection artifact as an insurance in case his friends die.

I watch over the end of duchy capital while patting the head of apprentice miko who are frightened. There's no meaning in taking shelter underground if it can cause damage over the defense magic of the sanctuary.

That is a flash.

When the light subsides, there are figures of severed great monstrous fish. Those are also dissolved as if the sky wipes them off. No, maybe I should say that they disappear.

The sudden attack on the duchy capital disappear more abruptly than when it arrived.
It'a all too soon, no one even falls victim.

Nanashi-san, is that you I wonder.

I was convinced that was it as if I received an oracle.

Ah, Tenion-sama.
Thank you very much for sending that person to this land.

SS: Arisa and The Devil Box

Author's Note: It's not Satou's POV this time. It's a short story from Lulu's POV.

*

Today we're having [Barbecues] on the courtyard of the mansion.

"Kuh, I can't have enough of the burning smell of the meat."
"Tarararari~""No desu!"

Tama-chan, I wonder if she was so happy, she couldn't say "Tamaranai". It sounds a bit like she's singing, it's really cute.
However, Liza-san who seriously watches over the meat with bones that are being grilled is a bit scary.
Since master had prepared a lot of meat skewers, everyone ate to their heart's content.

◇

Today's prototype is pudding.
It's very delicious, but since master keep getting dissatisfied with the [Caramel Sauce], he's having a hard time.

"U~n, no good. It's just sweet, there's no bitterness at all."
"Deliciouss."

Even though Mia-chan and me think that it's delicious, master and Arisa are still not satisfied. Oh Arisa, even though she's complaining, she still eats it all. Didn't she just have a showdown with Pochi-chan and the others with [Fried Rice] which she heavily consumed?

Since she's in her growth period, her appetite is big, but I wonder if it's fine to eat that much?

◇

I got praised by master when he saw the kombu that I had bought from the grocery on the downtown. I was hesitating since it was a bit pricey, but I'm glad that I've bought it. I will give my thanks to the shopkeeper who's recommended it.
I mean, master not only praised me with a smile on his whole face, but he also [Hugged], and patted my head.

Ehehehe~, I won't wash my head in the bath today.

"Crab nabe is the best after all~ but, how'd you get this crab fork."
"Ah, I've made that one just now."
"Kuu, dang you cheat, but, you're forgiven. It doesn't feel right to eat crabs without this after all~."

Just as Arisa's said, it's easy to take the crab meat with this fork.
The crabs are delicious, but everyone is quiet. Mia-chan looks a bit lonely, but she's steadily eating the [Pilaf] that master has exclusively made for her.

"Mia, let me try a mouthful of the pilaf."
"Arisa, overeating."
"It can't be helped right, I have to with all these delicious things~♪"

Isn't she really eating too much?

◇

When Arisa sees the magic tool with a round board connected to a wooden box by a pole that master is carrying, she runs away from the room in full speed.
I was surprised. That Arisa can move so quick.

Pochi-chan and Tama-chan whom master had ordered came back to the room after they caught Arisa. To make Arisa become that unwilling, I wonder what is that magic tool? Since it's something that master's brought, I think it's not a bad tool.

"Then, Pochi is next."
"Yes, nano desu."

When she gets on that board, it looks like the needle on the disk moves. Master scolded Tama-chan when she was going to touch the needle.

"It's a bit heavy, but I guess it's within the standard range. Since her race is different, there's no meaning to BMI, but I have to write down the body weight and the change."

Body weight is it? I had never heard that word, but for some reason I took a step back as as soon as I heard it.

"Lulu, you're next."
"Y, yes."

I hesitated for a little, but then I jumped on it decisively.

"You don't have to be so forceful, be more gentler okay."
"Yes, I'm sorry."
"There's no need to apologize. Lulu is slightly lighter than the standard huh. I guess it's better if she eats a bit more meat and dairy products during meals."

I'm relieved that it looks like I've passed judging from master's expression.

"No~, I've promised my dead grandmother to never get on that devil

instrument again~"

I thought Arisa's grandmother-sama had died even before she was born though?
Even though master has said, "Resign yourself and get on it", she's still resisting. In the end, master gets on the tool while carrying Arisa, checks the number, and puts Arisa down, then he gets on it again and checks the number.
At first I thought what is he doing I wonder? I've thought such thing, but master is amazing, I've noticed that master is trying to find out the difference between the two measurements to get Arisa's body weight.

"Arisa."
"Uu, I've been sullied..."
"Noisy, you're slightly obese. From tomorrow on, you're forbidden from eating meat, and another helping. Of course snacks and sweets aren't allowed too."

That's why I've warned her that she was eating too much.
I wonder why do Pochi-chan, and even Tama-chan look like their life are over? Even Liza-san and Mia-chan are silently praying for Arisa.

"I'll accompany you with the diet, so let's make the goal to have you go down by five kilograms in one month."
"I, I hate diet~~~~~"

Arisa's sad screams is resounding in that afternoon.

Postscript.

Thanks to the [Non Calorie] dishes that master has prepared, Arisa's [Diet] transitions safely it seems.
I feel that Pochi-chan and Mia-chan who innocently cheer for her have become a bit plump too. I also have to be careful. Let's do the upping and

stretching exercises like usual, no three times more than usual today!

Intermission: Mia and the Dietary Restriction

*

Human race food are delicious. They're really delicious you know. But, they're very dangerous.

I've learned my lesson you know.

That was recently--

"Hamburg steak is the strongest nano desu."
"Yum yum~"
"I like something that's firmer, but it doesn't shade the tastiness of hamburg steak. It's truly delicious."
"Even though it's made of grounded beef, I wonder why is this so delicious~"
"Arisa, you're eating too much you know?"
"I'm on my growth period, I can't help it."
"Nn."

Satou has made hamburg steak from beans for me, it's for my sake you know?
I was always envious whenever I saw Pochi and the others eating hamburg steak so happily.

That's why I taste this hamburg steak one bite at a time.
I mean, it'd be wasteful if I ate it too fast right.

"Does it suit your taste?"
"Nn."

Mou, it's the best. I'm in bliss.
I don't know how is he able to make this delicious dish from beans. It's

mysterious!
The grated daikon on top of the hamburg steak is a bit bitter, but it brings out the sweetness of the carrots. Of course it matches well with rice too you know?

◇

After the meal, I dive onto Satou's lap while feeling happy. I jumped you know?
Since the best place is already taken by Tama, I endure it beside her. But, but, I think it's not fair that it's always only Tama. I wonder if it's alright if I protest.

"It was delicious~"
"I want to eat again nodesu."
"Nn, delish."

Words of gratitude are difficult. It's also embarrassing if I talk long, I wonder if it's transmitted well? It did right.

"Arisa, you're going to get fat if you eat sweet things right after meal."
"It's a dessert. Sweet things go into another belly, so it's fine."

Arisa is amazing. She's still going to eat more even after eating that much! Even Pochi and Tama are taking a bite from Arisa!
I wonder if all human and beastkin eat this much?
No, they don't. Lulu and Satou don't eat that much.

◇

"Fish are delicious, but you have to eat meat once in a while after all."

Arisa isn't a picky eater, she can eat anything, she's a good girl.

"Sweets go into another belly don't they. Yummy, crepes. Why is sampling food this delicious I wonder."
"Nn."

These many varying tastes, it's a wonder. Satou can use cooking magic. He must be. But, I think sampling is just for one biteful. If you eat the same amount of shares as Arisa is eating, you won't be able to eat during dinner, it's true you know?

"Arisa?"

When we're changing our clothes, I call out to Arisa who hardens after she sees her own body.
I wonder what's wrong? I'm a bit worried.

"No~ well~ it's nothing. It's child's body right~. Yes, this is because of the child's body."

What is she persuading herself for? I wonder if she's not? However, she looks like that.

"It's finally, finally here, sponge cake! Hey hey, it has to be with fresh cream and strawberries after all right! Kuuh~ to be able to eat cakes even in this world, truly a bliss."

She really likes it. She does, doesn't she.
Eating half of that big cake alone.

I stop to reflect when I taste it for a mouthful, I mean, it's so delicious! It's too delicious.

Afterwards, everyone is eating greedily. I mean, it's delicious.

◇

"Everyone, get on this one by one."

Satou brings some kind of magic tool that looks like a box, or rather, a stand.
When I get on it, the needle attached on the side is spinning, round and round. I want to touch it, but since Tama was scolded for trying to touch it, I endure it. I endured it you know?

Arisa grimaces when she sees the stand. I wonder why?

"No! I've bid farewell to that devil instrument in my past life! I've promised in my heart to never get on it again."

Arisa refuses with all her might. She hates it so much.
However, she gets on it after Satou unusually [Order] her. Arisa is saying, "Clothes! My clothes must have been heavy!", but that clothes are made of thin cotton, it's very light you know? It's as light as a feather.

Satou tells Arisa with words that I've never heard before. I wonder what obese is? It's on my mind.

"Arisa, snacks are forbidden until you lose 5 kilograms. I'll take off deep fried stuffs from the menu."
"Nyu! Fried stuffs are gone, for everyone~?"
"W, wait a minute nodesu! Fried stuffs are essential nano desu!"
"I feel sorry for Arisa if it's only her, so I'll change the menu to stuffs with less fat."

Fat? The decrease of oily stuffs is to my liking.
But, Pochi and Tama look heart-broken. "Pochi~""Tamaa", they're hugging with pitiable voices. Liza is also looking at the sky as if enduring something. Is it hard I wonder?

But, it seems necessary to cure Arisa from her plumpness. Satou said so.
I think her plump stomach looks cute, is it a sickness I wonder? It's a sickness isn't it.

Let's all cooperate together to cure Arisa's plumpness.
Do your best, Arisa. I'm cheering on you, do your best.

"I hate diet~~~~"

How long does Arisa's scream continue to echo.
This is the first time I know that delicious meals can be dangerous.

Satou, you're a dangerous person aren't you.

Intermission: Hime Miko

Author's note: Not Satou's POV. It's in third person after a long time.

*

"Ringrande!"

Voice of a young girl echoes in the spacious private room.

"Ringrande!"

A girl is slapping the cushion she's carrying to the sofa as if she's spitting out her black emotion inside.

"Riin, graaan, de!"

With the strength of a powerless girl, she only makes light sounds, "poof", and the waterfowl feathers don't even fly out.
She probably doesn't normally exercise, the girl runs out of breath after only swinging the cushion for a few minutes.

A muffled laugh leaked out of a boy then.

"Who!"

The girl's anger is revived along with the settling of her rough breath.
That is because she had ordered the maids in this room to clear out of this room before she began acting violently.

"You're in a bad mood huh, Sera."

The one who comes out of the shadow while smiling is the girl's (Sera's) older brother, Tisrad Oyugock. The name of the one whom Sera was screaming about since earlier is of the two's older sister.

"Tisrad-niisama! Entering without making a sound is rude."
"Sorry."

The boy who is smiling kindly eludes the threatening attitude of Sera like a willow tree. He seems a bit mature for his 10 years old age.

"You were calling Rin-anesama, what's happened? Did you hear some backbiting from gossiping maids again?"

He seems to have hit the nail on the head, Sera puffs her reddening cheeks, and turns away. She normally seldom shows such childish actions, but it's not that rare in front of her brother, Tisrad.

"Humph, it's just like usual--

『Hey, hey, did you hear? Ringrande-sama has restored the lost magic they said!』
『You've just heard that old story now? This time she led the holy knights and exterminated the floor master of the labyrinth under the labyrinth city! The proof is with the lightning magic sword she's obtained you know?』
『Oh my, I wonder just how many hundreds of gold coins is a magic sword from a labyrinth? She's really amazing~』

--they said. Furthermore, in the end they said, 『Compared to her, Sera-sama is normal isn't she』. Don't you think that it's none of their business? I know that myself already! Only the younger sister of a genius older sister knows the hardship of having a genius as an older sister!"

The boy smiles bitterly while listening to his little sister who mimics the maids voices. That is because he has just heard similar talks with the position of his sister replaced with himself from the butlers and the

maids. Therefore he purposely came here to cheer his sister up who must be in the same circumstance.

He's really just cheering for his little sister. He's not a wimp who licks each other's wounds. If he is like that, in the future he won't be able to unite the foolish, sly old nobles who are spanning over this vast territory passed down from his grandfather and father.

"Sera, stop comparing yourself with nee-san. That person is special. She's a great woman who will stand alongside people who leave their marks in history like ancient king Yamato, and the wise of restoration, Ozara-sama. If you compare yourself to a huge tree, you'll only lament your shortcomings."
"Uu~, I know that, but! It's not about the theory!"

They're not words that should have been said by a mere 7 years old, but Sera, who is far smarter than other children of her age, understands what her brother is saying. Yet, her child heart cannot admit that it's right.

"If you're always angry, wrinkles will appear on your forehead you know? Don't complain to me if a boy you like in the future dislikes you for that."
"H, humph. I'll have ani-sama make me your bride if that happen, so it's fine!"

Sera rubs her forehead even while saying abusive words--although it's slightly cute--to her elder brother. Her young girl's mind seems to be growing quickly.

◇

"Baptism?"
"Yeah, the head miko of Yu Tenion will do it personally."

"Hee, that's amazing. I'm glad for you, Sera. To be baptized by the Saintess of Salvation-sama, isn't it due to father's request?"

The [Saintess of Salvation] is the second name of Yu Tenion head miko which she's gained from her role as the follower of hero, and her [Saintess] title. She rarely ever do baptism due to her old age. In fact, the one who baptized the heir of this dukedom, the boy Tisrad, and lady Ringrande, wasn't her, but the head priest. Although, since the head priest is technically higher ranked than her, it is unreasonable to complain about it.

Sera is having a smile on her whole face while being hugged by her father and older brother.

She likes being special.
Since her older sister is too excellent, most special things went to her sister after all.

After three weeks of preparation, Sera proceeds toward the Tenion temple accompanied by her older brother. Normally the rite is held in the worship room inside the castle, but in order not to be discourteous to the head miko, the baptism rite is to be held in the sanctuary inside the Tenion temple.

"You are Sera right."
"Y, yes. Head miko-sama."

Sera is ashamed for being unladylike by using loud voice since she's too nervous. The head miko gently brush Sera's head and whispers "Raise your head, being cheerful is a wonderful thing you know?" close to her ear. It's unimaginable how that gentle-looking figure fought the demon lord together with the hero.

Head miko hugs Sera on her lap until she calms down while gently

brushing her hair. After confirming that Sera isn't nervous anymore, she takes her hand and leads her to the rite magic circle.

"Listen, think about your favorite person during the rite."
"Is it alright for me not to pray to the god?"
"Yes, calm your heart and think about your favorite person, that warm feeling will reach the god."

This is the head miko's method, it is not the official teaching of Tenion temple. Normally, you only have to make her stand on the magic circle, chant the baptism spell, and it's over.

"Have you imagined your favorite person?"
"Yes, head miko-sama."
"Ufufu, I wonder who's on your mind. Is it your future husband?"
"I, it's not. Sera won't be getting married."
"Ara ara, do you want to become a miko?"
"Yup, Sera, will become a miko!"

Sera speaks like a child as head miko teases her to lure it out. Of course, she doesn't notice it herself. It's as if memories of her playing around with her older sister when they were children went adrift.

"Ufufu, ■■ ■■■ ■■ Baptism (Initiation)"

As if responding to head miko's spell, the magic circle releases warm blue light. Little blue lights that rise from the magic circle happily dance around Sera as if blessing her. Lightly, as if a little fairies coming out of the fairytale.

One light among them disappears as if inhaled to Sera's chest, and the rite is over.

"Open your eyes. Miko of Oracle, Sera."

"Yes."

The head miko suddenly changes to dignified tone unlike the kind old woman before, and Sera replies to that with slightly transparent voice. The head miko can see the [Oracle] gift, and the [Tenion Miko] title on her.

People who receive gift from the baptism rite are extremely rare, but they do exist. However, there is no precedent of someone receiving oracle gift (from the rite) even in the long history of Tenion Temple at the duchy capital.
As a proof, everyone on the surrounding beside the head miko and Sera are hardened in their initial postures from when the rite begins as if they can't follow the situation. They need quite a bit of time before they can move again.

◇

"Sera Oyugock, will you leave the house of Oyugock and serve on Tenion's side?"
"Yes, head miko-sama."
"Then, from now on, you are just Sera. Now, stand up Sera. Tenion temple welcomes you."

After the formality dialogs are over, the girl throws away the wealth and social position of the daughter of Oyugock's house, and enters into miko apprenticeship of Tenion temple.

There was no one who objected, including the girl herself. Among the people in this duchy capital--the 200.000 of them, there are only seven, and among the more-than 700.000 people in the whole duchy, there are only nine people who have [Oracle] gifts, and in order for those gifts to be

nurtured with the techniques owned by the temples in certainty, there is no choice for them but to live in.
Although it has some limit, this [Gift] has power to ask a question directly to the god. This is the only mean to receive divination about great disasters from the god.

Therefore, the training of miko of oracle are fierce.

◇

"Sera, Relena, Roza, line up here. Listen, you're safe as long as you are inside that magic circle. Do not lose your composure."

The three girls are clad in different kinds of miko clothes. Each have symbols that signify Tenion, Parion, and Garleon sewed on the clothes.

Relena, and Rouza are nine years old, one year younger than Sera. They're girls who became miko one year after Sera. The two are Sera's blood relatives, they are [Special] girls who have [Oracle] gifts since birth.

This place is a secret graveyard that's shared by the joint of seven temples in the duchy capital.
It's a secret place that only extremely few people know even among the temples.

"Kyaa."
"Oh, god."
"Kuh."

On the other side of the magic circle, several undeads are creeping out from the depth of a wide wide passage blocked with iron bars.
It's a nightmarish scene as if the door to the afterlife has opened.

"Calm down, miko apprentices"
"Now then, put these vengeful ghosts to sleep peacefully."
"Chant it, the edict of blessing!"
"""Blessing!"""

The girls strengthen their backs, and wipe their fear with the words of the guarding priests.

"■■■ Bless"
"■■◆ Bless"
"■◆■ Bless"

However, these young girls fail the most basic magic due to their extreme mental strains. Beside Sera, the two have failed their impatient chanting.

"Calm down. Relena, and Roza, you two chant again. Sera, stand by."

After several failings and rebukes from the instructor priest, they finally succeed the chanting. As if ridiculing the girls who feel relieved, the undeads from the other side of the iron bars are throwing their detached arms and feelers noisily. Bless only gives minimal damage to the undeads.

However, that's quite enough.

"■■ Purification (Turn Undead)"

After several purification magic from the high priest who is waiting nearby, the undeads finally stop moving and go back to just being corpses.

Enormous experiences from defeating countless undeads flow to the three girls and the high priest. The pain from the rapid growth assaults their bodies as if tearing it. The girls hug their bodies who's having rapid growth (level up), and writhe in agony on the floor. That pain is the proof

of growth, they cannot use healing magic as it will disturb the growth.

Those girls don't know.

The priests have used forbidden spell to produce these undeads in order to quicken their growths.

From now on, they have to undergo this secret ritual for many times.

And then, the girls who have grown up receive the oracle.
The future is harsh.

Oh god.
I pray that the future of humanity and the girls, the unfortunate event--

<TLN: Phew, third person POV is tiring to tl...>

Intermission: Sera

*

There are unfamiliar men on the place where my uncle's invited me. Ah, even though I've been warned about this, am I stupid for believing my relative.

I was kidnapped and made to swallow an egg-like something. I blocked my throat and tried to vomit it out many times, but they forced me to swallow some kind of medicine, and I lost consciousness then.

The next time I open my eyes, a familiar ceiling, and the face of head miko-sama comes to my view. I'm also right for thinking this place is familiar, since it's the sanctuary of Tenion temple here.

I tried asking the details of the incident, but since the head miko-sama told me, "Everything is already over. There is already no one that will harm you.", I fell asleep as if I was leaving my body to head miko-sama that day. It's like I'm a child, it's a bit embarrassing.

◇

I had a dream that night.
A dream about me talking about something with a man wearing a silver mask. The one who's talking with the tone of voice I've never heard before is certainly me. But, why am I naked. Ah, if you swing your arms that much. If this wasn't a dream, I would have jumped off the top of a tower. Ah, I'm even sitting with one knee up while being naked...

I'm in agony of embarrassment inside my dream.

◇

There has never been a day where I cannot wait to wake up from sleep like this day.
It's too much even for a dream.

It can't be helped if I get depressed. Let's renew my mood and work hard.
First, it's the morning duty!

"Ah Sera. You've been instructed by head miko-sama to not use magic for 4-5 days. Please help with the food distribution for a while."
"Yes, chief miko-sama."

Taking out the wind out of my sail all of a sudden.
It's really regrettable.

◇

Mou! It's terrible today.
There are always people coming and causing trouble during the food distribution, but just how many times are they going to disturb us until they're satisfied. It seems that they usually act like that during the tournament, but this year, due to the demon lord season coupled with the strange group [Wings of Liberty] spreading preposterous rumor, they're venting their excessive anxiety with violence.

The aunty who were helping with the distribution got hurt when she was washing her face. I can heal her bodily injuries, but I cannot do that to the wounded heart. I can only calm her down at most.

If a lizardkin woman called Liza and a little girl called Arisa didn't help to subdue the quarrel, the food distribution might have been canceled today. Since there are a lot of children who depend their life from this food distribution, I didn't want to cancel it.

"Thank you, we're saved."
"It's nothing, even master would surely tell us to help people in trouble."

Master?
I asked that girl called Lulu out of curiosity, turned out the girls are slaves of a honorary noble. Aren't they looking too neat for slaves?
I wasn't only surprised by their neat appearances, but the apparent lack of degenerate impressions that slaves usually have. I can't believe these girls who look so cheerful and free from worry are slaves.

As I was distributing the food, I listened about their master from the girl called Lulu. It's as if he's her lover--no, it's as if she's talking about her unrequited love, that kind of pure love. For someone who cannot fall in love like me, I feel slightly, yes, only very slightly envious.

I wonder that's why?

When I met their master--chevalier Pendragon, it didn't feel like the first time.

"Um, we've met somewhere haven't we?"

I involuntarily said such thing, I add another words in a hurry to varnish over it.

"No, this is the first time we've met. Sera-sama."
"Is it so I wonder..."

But, it feels strange when it's denied. Are we really not acquainted?

I feel like I've seen him somewhere.

I can't remember.

"Sera-sama, the people are tired of waiting for the food."

Err, did I perhaps keep staring at chevalier-sama's face?
It's embarrassing. If head miko-sama finds out about me staring at a man in public, she'll scold me. No, that person will surely teases me happily.

It seem chevalier-sama is the master of Lulu and the others, he's helping with the works of the aunties who are commoners without putting on air.

"You're pretty good despite being a noble. If you don't succeed your house, how about working in our shop? I'll let my daughter becomes your bride."
"N, no, you can't."

Even though the aunty was just playing around like always, I was surprised at my own reflexive reaction. When my eyes meet with Lulu-san who's said the same things, I start laughing.

I mean, for some reason laughter fill my heart.
This is the first time my heart is excited like this.

Even though he helped even until the clean-up, since I was surprised with the sudden arrival of Rin-anesama, I wasn't able to say thank you.

I wonder if he thought of me as a rude girl?

◇

The second time we met was when I went to the ball in the castle to congratulate Tisrad-oniisama's wedding.

However, I wonder what is this irritated feeling.

I wonder why is my heart feels irritated when I see chevalier-sama getting surrounded by younger girls.

"It's been a while, Satou-sama."

I don't know myself why am I calling chevalier-sama with his first name.
I feel the gazes of the girls around chevalier-sama vigorously gather at me, is this person perhaps popular?

That can't be it right?

I unintentionally thought of a rude thing, but I understood the reason after I ate the snacks that he had made. A snack this delicious. Even though the castle's head chef is excellent, I feel that this snack is incomparable.

I feel happy with every bite.

It's such feeling.

When I see chevalier-sama dances with the girls, I feel the irritated feeling from earlier gets even stronger. Maybe I should invite him to a dance?

"You're quite popular aren't you, Satou-sama."

Ah, even though I didn't intend to speak with sarcasm.
Yet, he replies with a misdirected criticism of himself. That was funny, and made me involuntarily laughed. It looks like he strangely assesses

himself low.
However, even though he's kind, he's unexpectedly mean. Even though I plead him to stop adding [Sama], I couldn't quite get his consent. Even though I rarely ever do such thing.

Oh right, he's not just skillful at cooking, but at dancing too.

◇

"Did something good happen? Satou-san."
"Yes, some difficult works have been going well."

Satou-san keeps the promise he's made during the ball, and he's been helping with the food distribution several times after that. And at last, we've started calling each other with "Satou-san", and "Sera-san", without the "Sama" at the last distribution. Since everyone at the temple calls me with "Sama", I've always yearned for friends that call me without honorifics.

Fufu, it's only a matter of time before we call each other without honorifics.

I, it's not like I want us to become lovers.
I'm a miko after all!

◇

That's right, Satou-san resembles Tisrad-niisama.
The way he always doesn't forget to smile, the way he eludes women, or the way he looks troubled yet never raises his hands when I'm mad at

him.

I wonder if I've been lonely since I seldom meet niisama after I've become a miko.
It's like, I'm a child.

I received two tickets for the diva performance from Tisrad-niisama, so I gathered my courage and invited Satou-san, but he accepted it cheerfully. He said, "I've been wanting to see it" at face value, but I'm frustrated. Why didn't he look a bit more embarrassed.

The diva's song seemed to be wonderful.
I'm sorry, even the wonderful song only passes through my ears.

Because!

The seats that niisama has given for this performance seem to be for lovers, there's practically no gap between us?! It's the first time I've ever been this close to a male beside niisama, my heart is thumping as if it'll burst out.

Satou-san is like usual, he only smiles back even when our eyes meet, and completely doesn't look like he's nervous. I think it can't be helped that it makes me want to pinch his unruffled cheeks. Of course I only think that inside my mind, I can't possibly actually do it.

As we're sitting this close, I feel like something deep inside my body is being pulled to Satou-san. It's as if cogs that have been put together, something in my heart tells me that this is my place, yes, it's as if my soul is attracted, it's that kind of mysterious feeling.

I wonder if this is what the my colleagues at the temple call love.
But, I think it feels a bit different.

Even though my own feeling is clear, I might be a coward.

◇

I wonder why does he have slaves?
I thought that he was someone who couldn't believe other people, but he doesn't look like that at all. When I see Pochi-chan and the others, they look like they're really cherished, and I don't think he can't afford to employ servants.

"Ah, it was because I protected these girls that had lost their master in the labyrinth, and took them along to the above ground."
"F, from the labyrinth?"
"Yes, if master wasn't there, we, who didn't know how to fight, would only become preys of the monsters in the labyrinth."
"Peerless and wonderful~?"
"Master is the strongest nanodesu!"

Because of that, everyone trusts Satou-san that much don't they.

"I was going to free them after we left the labyrinth, but they didn't like it...."
"I will serve master until I can repay the favor."
"Goetsushudon?" "Chain taxi nanodesu."

I don't quite understand what Tama-chan and the others are saying, but I wonder if they are more like servants than slaves.
<TLN: 'Goetsushudon' is meant to be 'Goetsudoshu'. Chain taxi = 'Ichiren Takushii', she meant to say 'Ichiren Takusho'. Both are Japanese proverbs that mean, effectively, together till the end.>

"As for us, we've been bound with『Geass』by an evil magician. Even if we're going to be released, it'll only get canceled."

[Geass] she said?
There's no one who can use it even in the duchy capital. It might be released with the prayer magic toward god, but since the compensation is too big, head miko-sama will probably refuse even if I ask.

"Sera-san, will you let me know if you know any way to release the『Geass』?"
"There's this holy magic called『Prayer(Wish)』. That magic might be able to release it, but the compensation is too big."
"The compensation is?"
"T, that is...."

I reflexively fumbled the words.
The degree of compensation for [Wish] can change. Since sometimes it shrinks your life span by 10 years, it's also possible for it to use up all your life.
Maybe Satou-san had realized it after seeing me hesitating, he didn't ask more after that.

◇

"There is you know?"
"Eeh?"

Head miko-sama easily replied in affirmation when I asked about it.

"Zazaris, the pope of Parion temple should be able to release『Geass』. I can also do it, but it's impossible for two people. My life would have ran out after I released one of them."

However, I couldn't tell Satou-san about this. I mean, if pope Zazaris, the one they call [Avarice] knows of a great person like Satou-san, he will

surely not overlook him. I'm sorry for Arisa and Lulu, but please wait until the time I can use the prayer magic.

They won't have to wait for long.
In 10 years, no within 5 years, I will reach the supreme top without fail.

At the dawn of the time those girls are liberated, I will surely--

<TLN: The next and last intermission of chapter 8 is in Satou's POV.>

SS: Orion and Rumor

*

A letter comes from father who had lost contact with me for a long time.

I'm told that due to a demon, the baron territory was on verge of collapse. At that time, thanks to a merchant and his escorts who had just arrived at Muno city, the territory escaped destruction.

Can mere escorts of a merchant fight a demon?
Isn't father being deceived by that merchant?

That suspicion only became deeper when I heard that father had conferred honorary peerage to that merchant.

◇

Nina Rottol? I don't know the name, but she seems to be a honorary noble who has become the consul according to the same letter from father.

Since she's just a honorary viscount, she's probably satisfied with becoming a subordinate of a broke noble, but her rank as a noble is higher than father's. Even if a territory lord is treated like an earl, I can't imagine why would she become a baron's subordinate.

"Nina Rotol? Don't tell me, the Blood and Iron Nina?"
"No, it's Rottol the Orc Eater right?"
"Is that really true? Wasn't she the mistress of the next duke?"

Even though I just lightly mentioned her name, all of my friends in the same grade seemed to recognize her. If she's a famous person, I think it'd be better for her to find a job in the duchy capital.

◇

A letter has arrived from Soruna-anesama.
Foolishly, she says that she's engaged with a commoner in the letter.

This can't be.

Father is a baron. Moreover, he's a lord of a territory. He's treated like an earl at least, yet why isn't she marrying a noble, but a commoner instead.

I send a passionate letter about the prides and responsibilities of a noble back to Soruna-anesama. It'd be good if she corrects her conduct with this.

◇

A letter from consul Rottol has arrived.

It seems that that upstart honorary chevalier merchant has fallen in love with Karina-anesama. A mere upstart honorary chevalier wanting to make the daughter of his master into his wife, there's a limit even for forgetting your standing.

She wishes for me to mediate between the two, in the letter, that's outrageous.

Perhaps that consul Rottol is trying to hijack the baron territory using that honorary chevalier?

Father is someone that can't doubt a person.

I have to do something to unmask that chevalier's true nature.

◇

I met the honorary chevalier for the first time at the evening party of the invitation from the duke-sama with father as a proxy. He's been trying to directly meet me up until now, but I've always refused it with suitable reasons.

"My name is Satou Pendragon. Delighted to make your acquittance."
"Umu, I'm Orion Muno. Chevalier Satou, be at ease."

Fumu, his face looks like the antithesis of ambition, but they say that all swindlers look like good people. I must not be deceived.

The next day, I've heard about the deeds of that honorary chevalier from my friends. He intrudes upon the house of the girls he's met during the evening party under the pretext of doing tea party, and proposes to everyone without minding who is it.

What the heck!

I have to protect Karina-anesama by any means.
I won't let her be used by that man as long as she's in the duchy capital.

I grasp my fist tightly, and swear to the setting sun that encroaches my room.

SS: Pochi and Scary Thing

*

"Pochi, would you like to hear a nice story?"
"That face is a bad face nanodesu. Arisa is going to trick Pochi nodesu."
"No~way, I won't do such thing you know?"

Arisa talked about some great thing nodesu.
I can say goodbye to the fish life with this nodesu.

"Master! It's terrible nanodesu."
"What's wrong?"
"Um, um, yes, Pochi is scared of meat nodesu."
"Hee, that's terrible."
"What if you're shown grilled meat?"
"I'd be so scared, I'd collapse nano desu."

I cover my face with my hands, and do my utmost best to do 'I'm scared' appeal, just like Arisa's told me nodesu.

"Then, what if you're shown steak?"
"I will scream and faint nodesu."

This time I put my arms on my head and squat down.

"I see~, it's terrible for Pochi huh."
"Yes nanodesu, it's terrible nanodesu."

Master is laughing just like Arisa's said.
There are going to be a lot of meat tonight nanodesu!

I mean, I can whiff the nice burning smell of the meat nodesu~♪
I'm excited with the anticipation of the dinner nano desu!

"Delicious~"
"It's tasty, master."

Huh? Huh? Wait a minute nano desu.
It's strange desuyo?

Even though there are steak on everyone's plate when I look around, on Pochi's plate it's.

"Why is it a grilled fish nanodesu?"
"Pochi's said that meat are scary, so I make it a fish for you. You should have said it sooner."

Master is smiling while laughing. I feel slightly happy, but that's not it. When I was being flustered while holding the plate, Arisa called out with a bad smile on her face nodesu.

"What's wrong Pochi? Fish are also delicious you know?"

A, Arisa, you've tricked me after all nodesu.

"Alright, since Pochi might be scared of tea too, here's the water."

Master passes a cup of water while giggling. Earlier, I've already said the punchline that Arisa taught me nodesu.

I have neither dream or ingenuity nodesu.

When I was staring at fish-san while slumping, Lulu traded the plate with the one with steak.

"Mou, master, and also Arisa are playing around too much with Pochi-

chan since she's cute."
"Sorry, Lulu, it just happen."

Meat, meat nanodesu!
When I look around while surprised, everyone nods nodesu.

"Master, is it alright to eat them?"
"It's alright, eat a lot."

This time, I tell master normally that, "I want to eat meat nodesu."
And also, Lulu, thank you nanodesu.

SS: Christmas

*

Funfunfu~ Funfunfu~ Funfunfun, fu, fu~

"Arisa is disgusting nodesu."
"Are you awright~?"

Mumumu, how rude!

"I'm just preparing for Christmas."
"Kuisuasu?"
"Is it fun nodesu?"

Gununu. Unpleasant memories from the past comes into my mind....
Calm down Arisa. Today you're having a Christmas with your beloved person aren't you. Although it's not just the two of us, the god of fortune rarely ever gives this much service for me, so I have to enjoy it.

"It's fun you know. You eat on a feast, and everyone plays together."
"Like usual~?"
"Everyday is a Christmas nano desu!"

No, that is true, but it's different.
Kuh, the magic of bullet list is obstructing me!

"During the Christmas, a person wearing red clothes called Santa-san delivers presents."
"Purezento~?"
"Something like a gift."
"Meat nanodesu?!
"Whale karaage is nice nodesu!"

Ah~, that was delicious~
Oops, I've been taken in by these two's paces.
If it stay like this, I won't make it in time to prepare the Santa cosplay.
Alright, let's kill two birds with one stone.

"However, you see, only good kids receive the presents."
"Tama is a good kid~"
"Pochi is also a good kid nanodesu!"
"Ara, is that really so? Even if you think yourself a good kid, other people might not think the same you know?"
"Unyu~"
"I, it's not like that! Arisa is mean nanodesu!"
"Bad kids, you see"

I cut my words, and attract the two's attentions.

"Black Namahage wearing bla~ck clothes will come"

I gradually lower my voice for the play.
Waiting for when the two hold their breath.

"Are there bad kidds here~!!"
"No bad kid~!"
"Pochi and Tama are good kids nanodesu~~"

I shouted loudly while raising both my hands, and the two went downstairs while screaming toward the room where master and the others are.
Yep, they're good kids who are worth to tease at.

◇

As an apology for scaring them at the daytime, I present Pochi and Tama with socks.
When I teach them that they will get presents from Santa-san if they leave it on their bedsides, they hang the socks while looking really happy.
Mia is also hanging the over-the-kneesocks that she usually wears, but those are thin, so they'll stretch if you put presents into it you know?

The four people are lying on the bed, and sleep happily.

◇

"Ara? It seems Arisa has also fallen asleep."
"Then, let's put the presents and go back."
"Yes."

So Arisa won't participate in the Christmas night performance.
Even though I've prepared a magic tools that play moody music, Hors D'oeuvre, and adult-like tablewares, unfortunately.

While healing myself by looking at the four who sleep happily, I quietly close the bedroom door.

<TLN: This whole last part are Satou's.>

Intermission: Night of the Party

*

Satou's here. I feel that I spent a lot of Christmas in the office after I had become a working adult. If March wasn't the end of the fiscal year, maybe I could have passed the end of year more relaxedly.

◇

"Master, Arisa is looking strange."

Arisa is always strange though, but since it's Lulu who's saying it, she must be even stranger now.
When I look at the place Lulu points to, Arisa is humming a parody of Christmas songs, like "Siilent night", "loonely night", questionably in a dark room while staring at the fireworks afar.
Did something happen that stimulated her past trauma?

"Looks like she's remembering something unpleasant, so let's leave her alone."
"Y, yes..."

To relieve Lulu who's worrying about her little sister, let's hold a fun Christmas party and overwrite Arisa's bad memories.

◇

"What is it, so suddenly? There are no Christmas or Valentine over here you know?"

Arisa seems like she's rebounded but since she murmurs, "Riajuu, serves you right", looks like there's still some lingering effect.

"Is that so, I thought that the past heroes had spread them."
"Christmas is just an urban legend. Just like there's no Tsuchinoko here, there's also no Christmas here! QED, conclusion!"

No, that's very forced y'know? It can't be completely proved in the first place.
Well, it's fine.

"I've thought of holding a feast, and do something that's Christmas party-like, but I guess I should not."
"Feas~?"
"Meat festival nanodesu?"
"Fruits festival."

The youth troop reacted to the feast word.

"Are there going to be a roasted whole turkey, champagne? Is there going to be (fried) chicken with bone too?"
"I've never seen a turkey, but there are chicken-like birds, so I'll make them if you're fine with it."
"Yahoo! Then, I also have to make Christmas outfits! Do expect mini skirt Santa!"

It might just be a bravado, but it seems she's become a bit more energetic.

◇

"Master, about the lulu fruits that we're going to use to make the cake--"

According to Lulu, ever since the wedding of Tisrad-shi, the fruits are always sold-out. Erina and Talna pair who I've asked to help Lulu carry ingredients are slumping on the chairs after using up all their strength.
I guess I should directly ask viscount Emlin to get the fruits. It'll be awkward since I've declined his daughter's marriage proposal, but but the viscount probably wasn't serious anyway, so it's fine right.

"I'll do something about that. I want Lulu to make the sponge cake, can you do it?"
"Yes! I've trained intensively, so I'm fine."

Lulu is a hard worker. I'll entrust Lulu with the preparation for the cakes and the cookings, and borrow the maids of baron Muno for the parts that can't be done alone. They should be able to at least peel potatoes.

◇

"Chevalier-sama!"
"Heya, Lina-sama, it's been awhile."

The second daughter, Lina, greeted me in the house of viscount Emlin. The viscount offered me with Lina's hand in marriage the other day as a thank for making the value of lulu's orchard instantly rises right. No matter how you looked at it, I felt sorry for her to be married with a countryside lower rank noble, so I properly refused it.

I praised her new dress until viscount Emlin came to the parlor. She had told me that her dress from before was her mother's, so maybe it's because she was happy for her new dress that she was turning around happily when I praised it.

"Hou? Christmas party is it?"
"I've found it written on an ancient document when I was researching for the cuisines of the ancient king Yamato's era. When I inquired it to hero-sama the other day, he informed me that it was a festival in hero-sama's birthplace, so I want to try reproducing it."

I'll use Hayato as an excuse for this occasion. He doesn't live in the duchy capital anyway, and he should be busy, so they won't suspect that it's just a random talk.
For now, after we've discussed about it, they're going to let me have some Lulu fruits. It seems that he's instructed the orchard's caretakers to harvest the best fruits. He's kind like always.
When I was idling in the viscount's mansion, I told Lina as a lip service, "Please come to the party if it's fine with you." Lady Karina and the others are going to be there anyway, the more the merrier for a party.

◇

Next, I head toward the ingredient market in front of the harbor.
I'm searching for rare fruits for Mia's fruits festival, and vegetables to color the dishes.

"Masta!"
"Nana, there's masta."

When I turn toward the source of the lisp voices, there is Nana who's carrying sea lionkin children on both hands. For some reason, Sera is also behind her.

"Hello, Sera-san."
"Good day, Satou-san."

As always Sera begins to smile sweetly when our eyes only meet.
However, there shouldn't be food distribution today, I wonder what's happened?

"Yes, I was doing some errands, so I came here, and happened to catch sight of Nana-san."
"Seera, masta listening to."
"Nana, masta's lover?"
"I have cross-examined my relationship with master, I announce that it's a relationship between a master and his attendant."

Sera is gesturing them to stop talking with a reddened face, but it's probably impossible to expect these three to read the mood.
However, I think miko-san isn't allowed go out with the opposite sex, but I guess she's at that age, so she's interested with such talk.

I keep Sera company with the nonsensical chatter as she's trying to change the subject. I invited Sera to the Christmas party while we were at it.

◇

When I was on my way back, I joined with Liza who was carrying fir-like tree on her shoulder.
It looks quite genuine.

Back in the mansion, it's been decorated with many ornaments. Erina carried several samples to the artisan street on the downtown, and mass produced them. Arisa seems to be the one who's requested it, and made me pay the bill. When I was going to hand over gold coins, they told me that several big copper coins were enough. Geez, the wage here is cheap.

I left the decorations to Mia and the maids, and went to help Lulu in the kitchen.

"Welcome back! These sponge cakes should be enough right?"
"Yes, they are."

Or rather, aren't there too many?
Well, if there are leftovers, I'll just give them to my acquaintances.

As I'm preparing for roasting the birds, I think about the party's lineup.
It'd be gone in an instant if it's just roasted whole bird, and karaage.
I continue the preparation to make the simple whale karaage in large quantity since it's easy to mass produce. I've abstained to use the whale due to everyone's reaction to it, but since there isn't any particular effect after that, it's probably alright. I might as well share the potatoe chips and the whale karaage to the children of the orphanage.

I caught Talna who was snacking on the karaage, and made her the one in charge to deliver them to the orphanage.

"To be prohibited to eat while surrounded by this smell! Chevalier-sama is an ogre~"
"Ogre is too much. You're free to eat as much as you want in the party, so work hard with the delivery okay."

I wonder if she's delighted with the 'eat as much as you want' phrase, Talna vigorously drive the carriage to the orphanage even while having her usual sleepy face. Please be careful with the traffic okay?
I've made too much karaage, I guess I'll share them with Ga Hou and the others later at night.

◇

"It's terribwle~"
"Master! It's terrible nanodesu!"
"I see~ it's terrible huh."

When I was decorating the cake, Pochi and Tama were running while looking flustered. Since I was concentrating, I gave some random reply. Liza who's helping with the cooking scolds the two for raising the dust. Mia also came a bit later.

"Is Tama a good kid~?"
"Is Pochi a good kid nanodesu?"
"Good kid?"

You three, why are they questions.

"Everyone is a good kid."
"Yay~"
"With this, Santa will come at night nodesu!"
"Avoided Namahage."

Arisa, what did you tell them this time. Or rather, various things are mixed in!

◇

The youth troop, young maids and Nana are wearing mini skirt Santa outfits. Pina and Liza are wearing long skirt type ones, maybe because they're embarrassed with it.
I was almost made to wear short pants type Santa outfit, but I evaded it somehow.

"I've come for the invitation today."
"Welcome, Lina-sama."

Lina's arrived slightly late. She's wearing a different dress than the one in the afternoon, it's a dress with open neckline to emphasize sexiness that doesn't suit her age. It's a bit too stretched. She should be able to wear it without forcing herself in five years.
Since she's worked hard, I give a lip service, "You look like an adult today", which prompts her to put her hands on her cheeks, looking shy.

A new guest arrives right at that time.

"Good evening, Satou-san."
"Please come in, Sera-san."

Sera looks a bit different than usual. She's wearing fiercer make up, and ceremonial-like miko clothes that emphasizes on its mysteriousness. She's also wearing several refined accessories that match the miko clothes, and aren't standing out.

When I was praising Sera's miko clothes and accessories, Lina who was at loose end joined the conversation. I wish lady Karina will follow her sociability.

"Sera-sama! Is chevalier-sama acquainted with the miko-sama of oracle?"
"Yes, He's been helping the food distribution at the downtown with me."
"Satou-san, is the lovely lady your acquaintance?"

Huh? Aren't there some sparks flying?

"Ara? It smells nice. Are you having some kind of party?"
"Welcome back, Karina-sama."

Pina and the maids are welcoming lady Karina who was going out with her little brother, Orion-kun, in a hurry.

"Ammazing beauty."
"Oh god, why are people born differently...."

Lina is speechless when she sees lady Karina. After Sera saw lady Karina's breast, she confirmed her breasts with her palms, and then she complained about something to the god. Sera, it won't be a joke if the miko of oracle does that.

When everyone was present, I cut the cake and started the party.
Mia is playing the lute, and Arisa begins singing while matching her.
She's even deliberately prepared lyric cards for the guests. Judging from these rounded handwritings, looks like they're written by Pochi and Tama.

"Jingle bell~, Jingle bell~"
"Meat are falling~"
"Today is fun."
"Meat festival~""Fruits festival~"
"Nanodesu!"

It's wrong, the song is definitely wrong. Arisa presents the independence Christmas dance with the youth troop and Nana in mini skirt Santa outfits.
I wonder what is this heartwarming feeling as if I'm watching the elementary school festival.

Everyone is enjoying the party while eating the cake, enjoying the seasonal fruits, and the chicken karaage. The potato chips that I've made in bulk are unexpectedly popular. I wanted to get the carbonic drinks, but since it was transported for orders, I couldn't get it.

◇

An unexpected person appaeared while we were playing twister game that Arisa had prepared.
Lady Karina was the sole winner of this game. On top of having soft body, since her balance and strength are supported by Raka, she won't collapse no matter what place she ends up on. I also lost quickly and was watching it, it was exceedingly eye-pleasing. The cause of the lost isn't due to balance, but a pair of ultimate weapons, and even though Mia and Arisa are telling me Guilty, that's a cheap price to pay.

"Yo, Satou! I've come after hearing you're doing Christmas."
"""Hehhero-sama?!"""

Yusha who's holding champagne and his followers intrude somehow, and the party's degree of chaos is increased even further.

"Haven't you departed the duchy capital this morning?"
"Ah, I got some bothersome thing from an acquaintance. So I needed to have some talk with the duke, and so we decided to stay in the duchy capital for a while."

So it's because of the short horn I've given them yesterday.
The hero murmurs, "This pork is way too delicious", while chewing the last remaining piece of the whale karaage.
Nice! Hero!
Thanks to his ill manner, the raw material doesn't come to light.
Hero has appraisal skill on by default, so I was almost exposed.

I ask Lulu to bring out the cakes, and the prepared giant bird teriyaki.

The hero receives the hors d'oeuvre from the maids while opening the champagne that he's brought. Since Lina looked like she wanted to talk to

the hero, so I introduced her, she asked for a handshake instead.

"Sera? What are you doing slipping out of the temple!"
"I did not slip out! I've properly acquired permission from head miko-sama."

Such sisterly quarrel, well, it's fine since it's heartwarming though.

"Isn't fine with being late to marry, what's wrong with it anyway~"
"That's exactly true desuwayo. I have 100 siblings anyway, isn't it fine if one of them doesn't get married?!"
"That's right! I'll make a society where a woman can live alone! It's woman's movement!"

Arisa, and lady Maryest are getting excited for something troublesome. Arisa shouldn't have drunk the Champagne that the hero's brought, but she's excited with her talk with lady Maryest.

Or rather, isn't this Champagne's dosage too much?

"Nyahahaha~"
"It's karaage speed eating nanodesu!"
"Do you girls always eat this tasty dishes."
"I'm so envious!"

The two beastearkin and Pochi and Tama combo are having speed eating contest with the karaage, but since I've made heaps of it, it probably won't be gone for the time being.

"Please enjoy the whole roast here. It's quite something when you eat it with this leaf wrapping."
"Oh! This is delicious."
"To make someone who hates vegetables like you to utter such impressions."

Lulu recommends the whole roast bird to the long earkin archer girl from the hero's party. I've never seen the dark elf-like long earkin beside her, but it seems she's one of the hero's party.

"Chicken meat is wonderful after all. Savoriness of the meat is one certain thing, but bird meat is the best for tasting to the bone."
"I think that having no bone is delicious~"
"Pina-san, stop eating the rice porridge and eat these karaage!"
"Talna, this rice porridge isn't just a simple unflavored one. It's using the soup stock from the birds, creating its deep flavor. Do you hear me--"
"Talna, I'll leave you to deal with the two. I live for the meal!"
"Wait Erina, escaping is unfair~"

Liza and the maid company seem to be enjoying the dishes in their paces.

I'm being pressed by lady Karina who's wasted, and priest Loreiya on both sides, and enjoying the blissful feeling. I'm glad that I'm holding the Christmas party.

"Guilty? That's right, it's guilty! Don't you understand Satou? You don't do you. Breast isn't only about bigness! It's not you know? It's alright as long as it's soft you know? It's true you know?"

I wonder if Ms. Loreiya made her drink, Mia's become talkative.
Mia occupies my lap in place of Tama who's busy with the food, and preaches to me, but since the huge volumes on both sides are too amazing, it passes through my ear.

"Satou? Do you hear me? You don't! You can't do that you know? Listen to me properly. If you don't, I'll do the last resort you know? Yes, my trump card!"

Looks like she's mad at me for not keeping her company properly, she

hugs my face with her chest from the front. No well, it's having the opposite effect if you hug that strongly. Her ribs are hitting me, it hurts. Of course I don't say it out loud. She'll get seriously mad if do so.
I waited until Mia is satisfied, I made her sit normally and knitted her hair. It looks like she's satisfied when I care for her. After a while, wonder if she's lost to the alcohol, I hear her sleeping breath, so I put her to sleep.

"Nana, terrible."
"Masta is going to get taken you know?"
"We need recapture strategy! I announce the start of mobilization!"
"Aye."
"Nana, work hard."

I don't remember much of the time when Nana attacks me from behind. It's a very, very happy night.

That night, starting with Arisa, everyone has hanged socks beside their beds, so I put the prepared Christmas presents inside.

While imagining the delighted faces of everyone after seeing the presents, we hold the Christmas night part.
Sipping Champagne while listening to the moody music is nice once in a while.

Credits

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~ epub version 1.0 by bakanonymous ~